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Cowbridge May Fair



Bank Holiday Monday • May 4, 2015
PREVIEW ON PAGES 18 & 19

YOUR Sunday lunch GUIDE
Enjoy your time with family & friends

Spring into Summer Page 25

ROMILLY OLD BOYS ENJOY A CATCH -UP!



The Romilly Old Boys' reunion took place in Cadoxton on Friday, April 17. As you can see, the lads are all in fine fettle and were delighted to meet up and exchange all the latest news. For more images of a great evening, please turn to page 26.

Picture by
ALEX MORTIMER-BROWN

'If writing was in English, we would know what it meant' Black and white flag on Main Street puzzles local residents

RESIDENTS in a Barry street woke up on Monday morning, wondering whether an ISIS flag had been raised above an empty shop, writes TIM CHAPMAN.

The black and white flag had been put up overnight and people were puzzled

as to what the writing on it meant.

A local resident, who did not want to be named in the paper, said: "When people walked past it they were wondering whether it was an ISIS flag. 'I went out for a walk on Monday morning and saw it as I returned.'"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

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TRUST HELPS YOUNG PEOPLE

I WAS very pleased to read your headline news in **The GEM** of April 16 about Jack Cafaro's efforts to raise £2,600 to represent Wales at the Fencing Commonwealth Games in South Africa this July.

I was also glad to see that your article acknowledged the grant awarded to Jack from the Bryn Illyd Trust.

Through your columns, I would like to inform your readers that the Bryn Illyd Trust is a local charity that was established in the 1960s, following the sale of the original youth club, which stood on the land which is now Windmill Close and the lower part of Llanmaes Road in Llantwit Major.

The money from the sale was invested specifically for the benefit of the youth of the town and those living within the Benefice of Llantwit Major.

Applications are welcomed from clubs and societies, as well as from individuals, as long as the beneficiaries are under 25, live locally and can indicate that the money will be used for specific purposes and ventures that cannot be covered by any existing budgets.

Your readers may be interested to know that recently the trustees also awarded a grant of £300 each to the seven students from Llantwit Major Comprehensive School, who will be visiting India this summer on the World Challenge programme. **Dr David Ellis, Treasurer, Bryn Illyd Trust.**

Lib Dem's 'alarm' over incinerator

I HAVE been following the planning process for the proposed wood-burning incinerator at Barry with some alarm.

I notice that the original plan was approved after an appeal, but I am astonished that the company responsible now wished to amend their plans as they believe that the 'principle' of having an incinerator has been established.

It is my opinion that the change to the design, involving larger capacity, taller emissions stack and different technologies should really be considered as a

fresh application and not just a variation on a theme.

I am disappointed that Vale Council has not resisted this attempt to establish a major industrial unsightly facility so close to the proposed new housing development and waterfront sports/activities centre.

The additional heavy-vehicle traffic generated will surely also impact on the success of the newly-reopened Barry Island leisure facilities.

I am pleased that my colleague, Eluned Parrot AM has also strongly objected to this project. **David Morgan, Welsh Liberal parliamentary candidate for Vale of Glamorgan.**

Soviets' sacrifice

I N response to the letter from S Fackrell of Barry ('Stalin was also an evil despot', **The GEM**, April 9), I have never been, nor will be, an admirer of Stalin.

I do, however, give thanks for the sacrifices made by the armed forces and people of the Soviet Union. Without their sacrifices, the struggle against Nazism would have been considerably longer and, possibly, unsuccessful.

This is not to belittle every nation and resistance movement who also fought the evil Nazi regime. **Christopher Short, Barry.**

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LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

THE VALE'S NEW WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE CHARGES: why and how

THE Vale Council introduced waste management service charges on April 1, and I would like to take this opportunity to clarify why we implemented them and how they apply.

As with all councils in Wales, the Vale continues to face increasing financial pressures. It is hoped the introduction of charges will save almost £270,000 and that this will help safeguard frontline waste management services, such as street cleansing, public convenience provision, and enforcement.

The charge for bulky item collection will be £15 per three items, with additional items charged at £5 each up to a maximum of five items.

Concessions are available for qualifying residents, allowing up to two free collections in any one year. For information on concessions, call CIV on 01446 700111.

Residents will still be able to take bulky items to either of the household waste recycling centres in the Vale, or choose to donate good quality items to charity.

During April, participating residents receive a supply of biodegradable kitchen waste bags. This will allow for three full caddies, which equates to 15kg of food waste, per week.

Additional rolls can be purchased for £2, equivalent to 4p per bag, from council receptions and Vale libraries, or can be ordered from CIV with postage applied. Alternatively, residents can line their caddy with newspaper.

Dog waste bags are now charged at £1 for a roll

Parties need to work together

I T looks like we are heading for yet another hung Parliament, but as always, the political parties are against joining together and working cooperatively.

I am really fed up with this Punch and Judy style of politics. Instead of adversarial politics, they should all work together and be positive.

Unfortunately, we are seeing in this campaign an old-fashioned tribal attitude - which is not good and is not working.

This is exactly why people are turned off from voting! Perhaps if we saw more change, then more people would vote.

Instead of the squabbling and name-calling, let's see more of them prepared to work with others.

Coun Richard Bertin, Barry.

Crossing will end obstruction

I AGREE with Derek Hooper (**GEM** letters, April 16) that there is a major problem with illegal parking in the Witchill pub area at Barry.

Like him, I have contacted the council: a pedestrian crossing is needed to cross Barry Road from the general store to the post office.

The problem is so much illegal parking is taking place, leading to traffic backing up in both directions.

People wanting to cross the road are put in danger every day, and the situation needs looking at.

A crossing at the place I have suggested would end illegal parking, and the obstruction course. **C Kendall, Barry.**

of 50 bags, equivalent to 2p a bag, and are available from council receptions and Vale libraries.

To use the council's HWRCs at either Barry or Llandow, vans and trailers will be charged an administration fee of £15 for a single use permit.

This is good value when compared to other alternatives such as skip hire and is comparable to the charges levied by other councils.

Recycling boxes and kitchen caddies will be charged at £1 each, bringing them in line with the charges currently in place for blue recycling bags and reusable garden waste bags.

I would also like to appeal to all readers to visit the Love Food Hate Waste website at www.wasteawarenesswales.org.uk for some useful tips on reducing food waste and for great recipe ideas on how to use leftovers.

Finally, I would like to remind readers that all household and commercial waste that we collect should be placed at the kerbside of their property on the scheduled collection day, and any receptacles used should be taken in as soon as possible afterwards.

Please remember not to place any waste out on non-collection days as this could be classed as fly-tipping, which is a criminal offence.

Clifford Parish, (Operational Manager for Waste Management and Cleansing)

Sad loss of Max

O N Friday morning, April 17, our much-loved greyhound, Max, collapsed and unexpectedly died in Cwm Colhugh meadow near Llantwit Major beach.

We would like to sincerely thank the lady and gentleman who stopped to help us. Unfortunately, we do not have their name and address.

Also to Shirley and Jean for their care and support at the time.

Thanks to all family, friends and fellow dog walkers who have shown us so much kindness and understanding.

Max was loved by so many and to us is irreplaceable.

Liz and John Thomas, Llantwit Major.

Put health cash to better use

S ADLY, the lady who wrote in **The GEM** last week regarding her daughter's health and the awful experience of ESA, is not alone.

I consider myself very lucky to have good health and be able to work. I am happy to pay my tax and NI in the knowledge we have a safety net to help others who are not as lucky.

I am happy part of my stoppages go towards training and employing highly specialised medical professionals, who are there when we

need them. What I am not happy about is paying towards an IT company which basically trashes the opinion of these specialists and says they are wrong.

This whole scheme is an expensive farce, it causes upset and misery to people who are already suffering and achieves nothing.

The sooner this ridiculous idea is dropped the better and, hopefully, the money paid to this company can be put to use helping people, not harming them.

Sue Eldridge, Barry.

'Why I will not be volunteering for the libraries'

W HAT an upbeat article (The GEM, April 9) urging the public to rally the community together to run voluntary-based libraries!

This has truly humbled me as I now understand what democracy means in this part of Wales.

In the Vale, it has created a local council that railroads its own political agenda under the guise of choice.

Voluntary-run libraries were not supported by the public.

I, as a passionate believer in education, self, state and private, for all ages, filled in the first questionnaire issued by the Vale

Council.

I filled it in to keep the libraries open. Then, like a caring citizen who lives literature, I ticked the box saying that I would consider volunteering for the libraries.

Soon after, all those kind-hearted citizens realised what they had done, and with the bells of 'education, education, education,' ringing in our ears like a state funeral, we were led blinkered into the brave new world.

So I will not volunteer.

A group chosen by the council will no doubt fill the roles, all echoing how wonderful the Vale is in taking democracy to the people. **Roul Duke, Barry.**

'Cardiff Airport is in need of more business sense'

R EADING about Cardiff Airport in **The GEM** (April 16), I felt quite dismayed, but not surprised, that £8m of the taxpayers' money has been thrown at it.

Usually when a business is not paying, it can be bought for £1, then invested into to try and make it pay. This airport is just soaking up millions to make pounds. (There's a bus which runs around all day virtually empty as well).

It is a shame, as this ought to be 'The Airport for Wales', so that people do not have to travel all the way to Bristol, a journey which I personally hate - when just a few miles away, there's my airport.

In England, they have had their rates frozen for the last two years, whereas ours just keep going up and up - to pay for schemes like this, I suppose.

The Welsh Government is in need of someone with business sense not to throw away our hard earned cash. **AJ Atkins, Sully.**

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 30)

The high tides listed in this week's **GEM** are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
23 Thur	10.24	9.4	22.39	9.1
24 Fri	11.07	8.8	23.25	8.7
25 Sat	11.53	8.1		
26 Sun	00.17	7.9	12.44	7.7
27 Mon	01.24	7.5	14.11	7.4
28 Tues	02.47	7.7	15.29	7.7
29 Wed	03.59	7.8	16.33	7.9
30 Thur	04.54	8.2	17.19	8.4

While **The GEM** makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

How Jam Fund is helping sick children following the release of 16 red balloons at Christmas

PAUL ADAMSON released 16 red balloons at Christmas, beside the resting place of his son Jamie, who inspired The Jam Fund.

The fund has raised more than £400,000 and helped numerous youngsters suffering from ill health, as well as providing support for their families.

Paul hoped the balloons would seek out other youngsters across the country who needed help.

He said: "When I released the balloons last Christmas Day, I attached tags with a hand written note on each one asking whoever found one to contact me by e-mail and the charity would try and help any child that they wished to nominate."

"The first was discovered in Somerset near Glastonbury on Boxing Day by Tina James. I am currently trying to find a child to donate to in that area."

"The second was found on March 17 in a back garden in Wimbourne, Dorset by a lady called Nicola Price."

"Nicola has a friend who also runs a leukaemia charity and we are liaising to find a child there to help."

The next balloon triggered a surprising coincidence.

Paul explained: "The third balloon was found in Ferndown Woods, Dorset. This is extremely coincidental because this is where Suzy Charman, The Jam Fund's official runner in the London Marathon, works on a daily basis."

by GEM REPORTER

"I think the odds that a balloon would find its way to within a few hundred metres of Suzy, over 75 miles away, in a straight line, is incredible!"

"The lady who found the balloon is called Sara Farrow. She had cancer three years ago and is originally from the Isle of Wight."

"Sara nominated a little girl named Perri who is currently in Bristol Children's Hospital having undergone some very traumatic treatment against cancer."

"Perri's mum and aunt have requested The Jam Fund finances a 'Princess bedroom makeover' for Perri as a surprise before she gets home, which we are now in the process of doing."

"In addition, a fourth balloon was found in the Bournemouth area, a distance of 75 miles, by a lady named Yvonne Thomas."

"As Suzy has already raised over £1,700 we will be donating to Perri and another two children in the Bournemouth area. I think the odds of a balloon ending up so close where The Jam Fund runner works are huge and I like to believe Jamie had a say in it!"

Recently, the fund has been helping families who have suffered the pain of losing young children.

Paul said: "We are in the process of financing three headstones for local children and hope it will bring some comfort to the parents and families concerned."

"The charity is also donating £1,000 to a local little boy who is suffering from muscular dystrophy and we are donating this sum towards a scaled down petrol driven jeep vehicle which he can drive."

"I want to also thank Paul Mitchell from Penarth who has run in the Cardiff half marathon in the past for the charity and is now also running in this year's London Marathon having got into the event through his running club Penarth and Dinas Runners."

DESTINY

Suzy, The Jam Fund's runner, told The GEM: "I am so pleased that I have so far been able to raise just over £1,700 for this super charity."

"I have been running for about three years now and the marathon has always been a goal. I was lucky enough to be introduced to Paul via a mutual friend. I have to say that I have really enjoyed my marathon training much more than I thought despite the early starts on cold, dark mornings and the lack of wine."

"The amazing part of this story is that three of Paul's balloons made their way to my home county of Dorset, and two of them ended up only minutes from my place of work. It has to be destiny!"

Suzy takes part in the London Marathon on Sunday, April 26.

For more on The Jam Fund go to: www.jamfund.co.uk/; or email: jamfund@sky.com.



Paul releasing the 16 red balloons.



ABOVE: Suzy Charman who is running the London Marathon on behalf of The Jam Fund.

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5. Vegetarian Hot Mushroom, fresh chilli, onion and peppers			
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7. Pepperoni Passion Double pepperoni, double cheese			
8. Kebab Special Chicken and doner kebab, onion & peppers (extra cheese)			
9. Meat Feast Pepperoni, spicy beef, spicy chicken, meatballs & ham (extra cheese)			
10. Chicken Combo Chicken tikka, roast chicken, Chinese chicken & tandoori chicken			
11. Hot Shot Pepperoni, salami, jalapeno, onion, peppers & garlic butter			
12. American Hot Pepperoni, onion, spicy beef & fresh chilli (extra cheese)			
13. Tikka Tikka Onion, chicken, tikka, peppers, American spicy sausage & mushroom			
14. Romeo's Tandoori Mushroom, onion, tandoori chicken & peppers			
15. Seafood Tuna, prawns, anchovies, olives & onion (extra cheese)			
16. London Pizza BBQ sauce, pepperoni, spicy beef, onion & American spicy sausage			
17. Paris Pizza BBQ sauce, roast chicken, smoky bacon, onion & peppers			
18. Doner Pizza BBQ sauce & doner slices (extra cheese)			
19. Romeo Meatball Spicy sausage, onion, meatball, pepperoni & green peppers			
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NEWS UPDATE FROM LOCAL SOROPTIMISTS



Left to right immediate past president Jeni, president Clare and vice president, Pat.

AT the recent AGM of Soroptimists International in Barry, members reflected on another successful year.

Jackie Memory, joint chair of the programme action committee with Pat Salt, reported that the club had undertaken a variety of activities which reflected goals and objectives identified by Soroptimists International.

Some projects were reliant on fundraising to support causes such as Breast Cancer Awareness, the Welsh Heritage Schools' Initiative, the Malarchi Trust and the president's charity, the Cardiff Institute for the Blind.

One new initiative undertaken by the club was working in conjunction with KIVA to offer loans to assist women in Nicaragua, Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Uganda and Kyrgyzstan.

Other projects reported on were established activities in the club e.g. knitting chicks for the Velindre chick campaign and the Jackson Bay beach survey for the Marine Conservation Society, which is now in its 19th year.

An increasing number of projects this year were service based, e.g. a

reading buddy scheme at High Street school, the FAST project, sixth form interviews at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive and supporting Atal Y Fro by donating items for the refuge.

In addition, the human trafficking project, donation of books to the new library at Golau Careidig, support of the Vale Foodbank, the Christmas Tree Festival and awarding of the Soroptimist Cup to a student in Bryn Hafren, were all represented in a display at Barry library during March.

Often the best way the club can help charities is with money and almost £2,500 was raised at various fundraising activities including a sing-along *Sound of Music*, Christmas table decorations masterclass, clothes swap evening and fashion show.

This money was donated to charities locally, nationally and internationally, including £500 to the president's charity, Cardiff Institute for the Blind.

In her outgoing speech, president Jeni thanked all members for helping her have such an amazing year. Everyone had contributed in some way and she felt there had been "something for everyone".

She thanked the team

leaders for all the amazing events they had organised and was particularly grateful to all those members who had helped organise the transfer to the new meeting place, the Constitutional Club in Sully. She was also grateful for the support she had from family and friends.

Incoming president, Clare Hart, thanked Jeni for all her hard work and said she had shown kindness and consideration to everyone. Good things come in threes and this

the third time Clare has been club president.

She reflected on the fact that since her last presidency in 1998/9 many clubs in the region had closed, whereas our club was going from strength to strength, attracting new members each year.

She was delighted that the club was renowned for its friendship and hospitality and she felt that friendship was at the heart of its success.

Clare lives in Barry with her partner Alun, and has two stepsons, Daniel and Steffan. She

is a senior partner in the law firm Robertsons, which has offices in Barry and Cardiff.

Clare's first official duty was to install Pat Salt, a retired teacher from Barry, as vice president. This gave her particular pleasure as the vice president's badge of office is a comparatively new addition to the club's insignia and was designed by her father.

To find out more about us visit www.sigbi.org/barry-and-district.

CSD

'Beware of these bogus callers' – police warn

POLICE in Barry this week warned the public after a resident was called by people falsely claiming to be from the Ministry of Justice.

The scam telephone call advised him that he could be owed money from payment protection insurance (PPI), but first had to make an upfront payment.

"These callers have no connection with the Ministry of Justice, or any other genuine organisation and South Wales Police are urging the public not to purchase the Ukash voucher requested by the fraudster," said Inspector Clive Bevan.

"In this case, the caller informed the gentleman that they were from the Ministry of Justice and that he was owed a refund from missold PPI

insurance. However prior to this, an initial payment is requested to be made using Ukash vouchers.

"Once the victim has purchased the Ukash voucher, and handed over the unique code to the fraudster, the value of the voucher is claimed and the victim does not receive the promised PPI money.

"As the caller indicates they are from the Ministry of Justice it can appear very plausible and the scam is designed to gain the victims trust.

"We are urging people not to be taken in by cold callers approaching them by telephone and informing them of money they may be entitled to," he added.

If you, or anyone you know, has been affected by this fraud or any other scam, please report it to South Wales Police on 101.



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Confusion over black flag on Main Street

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The resident continued: "Someone said to me: 'Is it an Isis flag?'"

"Black and white seems to represent ISIS."

"Someone claimed the words meant 'Peace and love', but without an English translation on the flag we don't know."

The man said putting up the flag without people knowing its meaning was not being responsible.

"This area is a melting pot and everyone gets on. I have Welsh friends who have converted (to Islam) – they might not be able to read it themselves and be concerned. People get along here and we don't want problems."

He said that if it was an Islamic flag, he wondered

whether the Welsh flag would be welcomed in an Islamic country.

A local trader said: "I understand it was put up at 12.30am on Monday morning. People locally were shocked to see it. If it had been in English people would have known what it meant."

"We don't know whether it is aggressive or peaceful. People have been discussing it in the street."

Rita Limbrick, who has won a major community award for south Wales and who runs the a local multicultural meeting place and cafe, said she had been in touch with a local Muslim who had been able to translate what was on the flag.

"It says 'Islam is one'. They should have put it up in English,

so people would understand and not panic."

"I came out of my house at 9.30am and people began to approach me because I am the local community person."

The GEM understands the flat has been empty, and that the estate agent dealing with it was informed about the flag. It was removed on Monday afternoon.

A South Wales Police spokesman told The GEM: "We received reports concerning a flag on display on a building in Main Street, Barry."

"Officers attended the scene and it was quickly established that the flag did not contain any inflammatory messages."

"The flag has now been removed."



ABOVE: Aggressive or peaceful?
The mystery flag suspended outside an empty flat in Main Street.

WRITE A WILL and support Ty Hafan

GIFTS in Wills change lives. For Ty Hafan, they are vital in providing care and support to children with short lives all across South Wales.



They are essential in supporting families like the Pucellas from Bridgend: Luca Pucella is a happy, energetic eight-year-old with an infectious laugh and a wicked sense of humour.

But what makes Luca different to other boys of his age is that he suffers from a rare life-limiting condition called ROHHAD syndrome.

He is the only person in Wales to suffer from the condition, which affects only 75 people worldwide. ROHHAD syndrome causes rapid-onset obesity, impairment of the autonomic nervous system and reduced lung function.

Angelo, Luca's dad, said: "When Luca was first diagnosed, we felt very much on our own."

But the family felt a huge sense of relief when they were referred to Ty Hafan in 2010.

"Ty Hafan has always been there on the other end of the phone; they've visited us in hospital and provided vital short-break care."

Gifts in Wills are a crucial source of funding for Ty Hafan, and in fact fund 20 per cent of the care the charity provides. Without gifts in Wills, the children's hospice simply couldn't support as many families.

Thanks to the support of over 25 solicitors from across south Wales, Ty Hafan is running its Write a Will scheme again this year.

Between May 11-22, the team of solicitors has agreed to waive the usual will-writing fee, and ask that you make a suggested donation of £50 for a Simple Will or £75 for Mirror Wills to Ty Hafan instead.

• To find out more about the scheme, visit www.tyhafan.org/will50 or call 029 2053 2255.

Widow's despair as her pleas to stop election literature sent to late husband are ignored

A St Athan widow has been upset to receive election information from the Labour party's London HQ, emailed to 'Dear David' – even though her husband died seven months ago.

by GEM REPORTER

Mrs Hazel Morgan said the constant emails had been "upsetting". She is still coming to terms with David's death, at just 61 years of age. He was a diabetic and had had to have a leg

amputated.

Mrs Morgan explained: "My husband died last September and I miss him very much."

"I have been getting emails addressed to 'Dear David' since last October from Labour Party headquarters."

"I have written back to them asking them to stop and I have tried to unsubscribe from their emails, but they still come through. He had never been a member of the Labour Party."

Mrs Morgan had also been getting emails from the Labour Party in the Vale, but when she

complained, the local parliamentary candidate Chris Elmore apologised to her and the local ones did stop.

"I've rung up Labour's headquarters in London and a girl said they would stop sending them, but they still come. I was devastated when my husband died and this has been upsetting."

The Glamorgan GEM approached Labour Party headquarters in Cardiff and explained how distressed Mrs Morgan was.

A spokesman for the Party said: "We apologise for any distress to Mrs Morgan and have rectified the situation."

Calling out to all kitchen gardeners!

AMATEUR gardeners and allotment holders are being invited to show off their produce this year at Bridgend's biggest country fair.

The Kitchen, Garden and Allotment Show will be part of the Bridgend County Show at Pencoed College (July

10-12). Spokesman John Howley said: "Do you ever feel like entering one of those 'traditional' summer allotment and gardening shows but are put off by the idea of aggressive competition?"

"Are you restricted to a small back-garden or growing on a patio? Would you like to just take along whatever you or your family have grown and maybe share tips with fellow gardeners in a relaxed setting?"

"If this is you, come along to the first-ever Bridgend Kitchen, Garden and Allotment Show. "Programme, entry details and further information can be obtained by email (ejohnhowley@btinternet.com)," he added.

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Excited pupils prove they were in it to win it!



Mr Hutton and Mrs Ellis with the Year 9 winners.



Mr Lloyd with the Year 8 winners.



Mr Williams and Ms Byfield with the Year 7 winners.

ON the final day before the Easter break, Barry Comprehensive again celebrated the positive with the second 'In It to Win It' draw and years 7, 8 and 9 were expectant as the raffle was drawn.

Each of these year groups had worked hard throughout the term to accumulate raffle tickets through high attendance, good behaviour and academic improvement.

Many of the boys had multiple tickets, giving them a better chance of winning one of the fabulous prizes.

But in the spirit of the raffle one ticket gave you the chance to win.

The boys were extremely excited at the opportunity to win a range of prizes from Easter eggs and footballs to scooters and a G Shock watch. Attendance on the final day of term was key, because as you know you have to be in, to win.

The next 'In It to Win It' draw will take place on the final day of this half term. Each boy in years 7, 8 and 9 has the chance to win a Kindle Fire and a BMX bike! All the boys are keen to maximise their efforts so they can obtain more raffle tickets and give themselves the chance to win one of these amazing prizes.

AC

Construction course gives jobless a lift



The construction course participants.

TWELVE men from the Barry area were recently given a lift into construction following a free course organised by Newydd Housing Association and sponsored by Pendragon Design and Build.

All 12 unemployed participants passed the accredited Construction Skills Certification Scheme course providing them with a CSCS card, essential for employment in the industry.

The week long course held at the end of March was funded by Pendragon as part of their commitment to support local employment during the redevelopment of the former Marine Hotel on Barry Island on Newydd's behalf, donating over £4,000 to support the local community.

The course included health and safety practice, timber and groundwork and working within a team, putting them in good stead on a building site.

As well as their time in the classroom participants gained practical experience outdoors, including building a pergola at the community garden and allotment in Gibbonsdown, Barry.

Ryan Ledsam (21) said: "I have really enjoyed myself and working in a team has really built my confidence. I want to work in construction and have a labouring job lined up. This course has made sure that I can get the CSCS card I need to get on a building site."

Work party's 'thank you'

THE Parkinson's coffee morning held in the All Saints Lesser Hall, Penarth, on Saturday, April 18, raised (including donations) £1,153.

We would like to thank individual donors and Services Lodge 7139 for helping us raise this sum. Thank you also to local businesses, including, Thompson Butchers, Beauty Within, Starbucks, Brynawel, Umpa Lumpa, Lana Beautique, Shaws, Wood Street Post Office and Jo Backstage Hair, who gave their support.

A 'special thank you' goes to those helpers who willingly gave their time to help raise this fantastic sum.

Mary Thomas, Penarth, All Saints Work Party.

Spring fayre at the Paget Rooms

PARISHIONERS from the Parish of Penarth and Llandough are hoping for a good turnout for their spring fayre on Saturday, May 2 from 10am-12 noon.

The event is returning to the Paget Rooms in order to allow more space for the varied stalls that will be selling everything from cakes, cards, plants, jewellery and kitchen equipment to preserves and toys.

"The spring fayre is an important fund raising event for us", said organiser, Mary Cole. "We have three churches to maintain - St Augustine's, Holy Nativity and St Dochdwy's in Llandough. We do hope local people will come along and support this event which is always good fun with lots of bargains."

The fayre is 10am-12noon and the price for admission is £1 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

Committee retires

THE members of the Barry Central NSPPC Committee have announced their retirement after 60 years of happy and successful fund-raising for this very deserving cause.

The committee was formed in 1955 by Mrs Carys Howe.

We wish to thank everyone for their generous and loyal support, over the years, at our many events.

HILARY KELLY

MAN'S £40k TAX FRAUD

A SELF-EMPLOYED construction worker from Barry who lied about his income in an attempt to steal £30,000 of income tax, has been sentenced after an investigation by HM Revenue and Customs.

Investigators found that Ashley Williams, 23, put false information on his self-assessment tax return so that he could fraudulently claim back £30,714 in tax.

He was sentenced to eight months imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, when he appeared at Cardiff Crown Court on April 16.

Williams must repay £8,496 to HMRC, including £2,000 within 21 days, and also complete 120 hours of unpaid work.

Teilo cheques in at Sully Sailing Club!



THE sailing programme at Sully Sailing Club is in full swing and last weekend the Commodore welcomed their latest qualified instructor, Teilo Richardson, to present a cheque from Barry Youth Watersports for the cost of his training.

As well as sailing in the club racing, which takes place on Sundays, Teilo will be using his new skills at Sully on a Wednesday evening, when Barry Youth Watersports runs training

at the club, and on a Thursday when the club run their own training.

He will also be present on Saturday, May 9 when Sully Sailing Club are holding an open day at the club.

Everyone is welcome to come along between 10am and 4pm and learn about the facilities the sailing club has to offer and, weather permitting, can have a go in a sailing boat.

Details of how to find the club can be found on their website at www.sully-sailing.org.uk.

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Two varied strolls in the sunshine!

A GROUP of 17, including leader Terry from Penarth and District Ramblers, travelled by train to Severn Tunnel Junction and set off from Rogiet in bright sunshine to complete the second part of the Wales Coast Path from the eastern end.

Making their way down to the grassy coastal path above the seawall on the Caldicot

Levels, there were glorious views both inland and across the Severn Estuary.

Journeying on past Redwick and the delightful Porton House, the route turned inland through Goldcliff Pill, where water is carried from the reens which keep the land dry and is deposited into the sea.

At the Newport Wetland Reserve, where the old coal ash site from the nearby Uskmouth Power Stations has been flooded to attract birds, plants and wildlife, they

finally completed their 13-mile journey before the journey home.

Mid-week walk

WILLIAM took his group of six walkers on a mid-week, sun-soaked adventure with brilliant views in the Black Mountains beginning from the forestry at Blaen-y-Cwm.

Trekking over the ridgeway and descending steeply into Capel-y-Ffin they passed the site of the old Llanthony Tertia monastery.

Climbing up the steep sided valley beside the Nant Bwch, a tributary of the River Honddu, they moved on across open moorland with striking views towards the Wye Valley.

At the highest point of the walk, the trig point on Rhos Dirion at 713-metres, it was time to descend through the Grwyne Fawr valley back to their start point.

On April 25, a train ramble will begin from Rhoose Railway Station at 10.10am for the nine-mile moderate walk to Llantwit Major Station then a train ride home. If you intend making the whole journey by train to the start point at Rhoose, the train will leave Cogan at 9.48am, Dinas Powys at 9.53am and Barry at 10.03am and please remember to buy a return ticket to Llantwit Major. Contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

On April 26, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a nine-mile moderate waterfall walk from Pontneddfechan; contact Clive on 029 2065 4156.

To follow the group, log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com. Membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

NEWS IN BRIEF

RHOOSE and District History Society is holding its next monthly meeting on April 24, at 7.30pm in the lesser hall of Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose.

Neville Evans will speak on 'Welsh Scientists', see rhoosehistory@org.uk

Spring fair
THE Barry Philatelic and Postcard Society is holding a Spring Fair on April 25 at Highlight Community Centre, Barry, at 10am to 4pm. Free refreshments.

Beach clean
FRIENDS of Barry Beaches will be holding their next local beach clean on Sunday, April 26, meeting at Knap beach at the usual time of 3pm.

All litter picking equipment will be supplied. For further information, log onto www.jobbbick.co.uk

RATHBONE CYMRU HAS OPENED THE NEXT CHAPTER IN COREY'S CAREER

A YOUNG father from Barry has had support from a youth training charity – to balance his efforts to find work with his responsibilities as a parent.

Corey Harrison (18) came to Rathbone Cymru in 2014 seeking help to fulfil his ambitions of working in retail.

Corey started a retail NVQ and was supported into a placement with Halfords, but difficulties at home and becoming a young dad meant he found progressing on the course difficult, so Rathbone helped him to find him a new placement nearer to his home with WH Smith.

"We worked with Corey to



Karla Poveda, tutor for Rathbone Cymru with Corey Harrison.

overcome the barriers affecting his learning and found a new placement that better suited his needs," said Karla Poveda, NVQ assessor for Rathbone Cymru.

Corey grew in confidence and with support from Karla

and Rathbone Cymru's retail tutor Faisal Malik his commitment to his learning went from strength to strength, enabling him to complete his NVQ and gain employment with WH Smith through Jobs Growth Wales.

"With full support from Karla and Faisal, Rathbone Cymru has helped me as a young parent to gain the retail skills I needed to gain employment. I love my job and I am thrilled to have passed my qualification," said Corey.

Rathbone is a national youth charity, which provided education and training support to almost 11,000 young people aged 14 to 24 across the UK last year.

"Corey has worked extremely hard to develop his employability skills and experience and we wish him all the best for the future," said Faisal Malik.

More information on Rathbone is available online at www.rathboneuk.org

Store offers a 'helping hand'

A BARRY Tesco store is offering a helping hand to its local community, with the launch of a new competition.

The store in Stirling Road Shopping Precinct, Barry, is running a 'Helping Hand' competition which will offer community groups and charities the chance to win a share of £2,000.

Shoppers at the store will be able to nominate local worthwhile causes who they feel deserve a little extra help.

The manager of the Barry Tesco store, John Mitchell, said: "The Helping Hand competition is a really exciting opportunity for our customers to have their say and let us know where they feel we

should offer some support.

"Playing a positive role within our local community is important to us so I'm really looking forward to seeing the nominations from our customers."

The competition will be launched on Monday, April 20 and will close on Sunday, May 17 at 4pm. Once the voting is closed, John and his team will go through all the nominations and pick their winners.

The winning organisations can use their share of the donation as they wish. Customers will be able to collect nomination forms at the store and once completed, deposit them in an entry box at the Customer Service desk.

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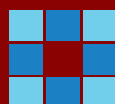
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Man is jailed for sexual offences against children

A MAN has been jailed for more than 13 years, following a number of sexual offences against young children.

William Blower (66) from Maesteg, was sentenced on Thursday, April 16 for seven counts of indecent assault on a child and two offences of indecency with a child. He has been placed on the Sex Offenders Register for life.

The offences occurred between July 1971 and April 1984. Investigating officer DC Rebecca Merchant said: "William Blower's offending spanned 13 years and was of the most serious degree. He deliberately took advantage of children in order to satisfy his own sexual gratification.

"The victims have



William Blower

been haunted by what William Blower did to them for over 40 years, and they are still suffering the psychological effects of his actions.

"We want to take this opportunity to thank the victims and witnesses in this case for showing tremendous bravery in coming forward after

such a long time, and then giving evidence against him.

"It is down to their courage, and their courage alone, that he is now facing a long time behind bars."

DC Merchant added: "South Wales Police always takes every allegation of sexual abuse extremely seriously. We hope this conviction serves as an important message to people who have been the victim of crimes such as these that they can come forward regardless of when the offence occurred.

"If you have been a victim, or know someone who has been, please get in touch with us on 101 and help us bring the offender to justice."

Chance for young cooks

YOUNG cooks can get a good grounding in the basics now that a Cowbridge store is running cookery workshops.

'Cooked Up' is a cooking and nutrition school based in Wales, and have joined up with Daisy and Jack in the High Steet to help youngsters learn more about food and cooking.

Natalie Davies of Daisy and Jack said: "We are super excited at Daisy and Jack to let you know that 'Cooked up' are hosting parties and running cookery workshops for children from our upstairs space.

"Why not check out the website www.cookedup.co.uk for more information on these fantastic classes".

TWO CHOIRS, TWO SOLOISTS IN MAYOR'S CHARITY CONCERT



The choir in full song.

THE Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Howard Hamilton, invited Cowbridge Male Voice Choir to sing at his charity concert, which was held on Saturday, April 18 in St Cyres School, Penarth.

The concert began with three pieces from the St Cyres School wind band, after which the men of Cowbridge choir were joined by the ladies from Barry in a joint rendition of the rousing Welsh hymn *Gwahoddiaid*.

The ladies then left the stage to the men who sang *Divine*, *Brahma* and *Angels*. The ladies then replaced the men on stage for two more pieces and the first half of the concert was completed by two young soloists Llinos Jones and Jodi Bird, who sang one piece each then together sang *Travelling Soldier*, (originally made famous by country music trio the Dixie Chicks).

In the second half, the Barry ladies sang two pieces, followed by Llinos and Jodi, who also individual songs, then they joined one another once more in a duet - this time the well-known *Over the Rainbow*.

Cowbridge Male Voice Choir finished their set with the song *She* from the film *Notting Hill* and *O Gymru*. The finale saw Cowbridge and Barry choirs appearing together on stage once again, to sing the Welsh hymn *Tydi a Roddaist*.

The proceeds of the show went to support the Mayor's two charities, the Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club and Wales Air Ambulance. TC



Barry Ladies and Cowbridge Male Voice choirs.

Fairground supremo shares his vision with AM

FAIRGROUND supremo Henry Danter was praised by the Vale AM Jane Hutt for his initiative and support for Barry in bringing the funfair back to life over the Easter holiday.

He told her of his plans for all year round activities, and they followed this up with coffee at Marco's to meet businesses, local people and visitors who were enjoying the Island, which has benefited from Welsh Government, Vale Council and private sector investment.

The AM is pictured with Henry Danter, Marco Zeraschi, Rachel Zeraschi and nine-week-old Matteo Zeraschi.



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VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

VALE OF GLAMORGAN LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE FORUM

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is beginning the process of reappointing the statutory Local Access Forum, as required under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The Forum will consist of between 12 and 22 members. Membership will be for a three year period from the date of the first meeting.

The function of the Forum is to advise the Local Authority, Natural Resources Wales and others, as to the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area.

It is anticipated that the first meeting of the reappointed Forum will take place in June 2015. Meetings generally take place on a quarterly basis at a time and place agreed by the Forum members. It is important that members attempt to attend all meetings, as deputies will not be permitted. These are unpaid positions but Forum members will be able to claim reasonable expenses.

Any person wishing to be considered for membership can obtain further details and an application form by writing to Jeff Wyatt, Secretary, Local Access Forum, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU.

Alternatively, details can be obtained by e-mailing jrwytat@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Completed application forms must be returned by 8th May, 2015.

PACT meetings

GIBBONS DOWN PACT, Barry Rugby Club, Merthyr Dyfan Road, April 27 at 7pm.

ST AUGUSTINES PACT, The Windsor Arms Public House, Windsor Road, Penarth, April 29 at 2pm.

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Hard pressed ambulance service's appeal to time wasters... 'Don't call 999 unless it's a REAL medical emergency!'

THE over-stretched Welsh Ambulance Service is urging people not to call 999 "unless it is a real emergency".

The service took 19,151 non-urgent calls in the last seven months – just 318 of which required an ambulance – and none resulted in a patient being taken to hospital.

One woman called 999 because her athlete's foot infection had worsened, and a man wanted dental work for two broken teeth!

Other examples of time-wasting calls:

'Athletes foot infection – worsened,' August 2014, Conwy.

'Two cotton buds stuck in ear,' November 2014, Cardiff.

'Dancing too much – sprained ankle,' September

2014, Llandudno.

'Got two broken teeth – wants dental work,' December 2014, Dolgellau.

'Tried to eat a scotch bonnet chilli pepper, face burning,' October 2014, Pontypool.

'Male feeling knackered,' September 2014, Abergale.

'Hasn't had any food since yesterday and feeling sick,' December 2014, Pentre (Rhondda Cynon Taf).

'Has trouble to walk, blisters on feet,' August 2014, Cardiff.

'Had tooth out and now in pain,' November 2014, Pontypridd.

Richard Lee, the Trust's Head of Clinical Services, said: "The Trust is taking steps to ensure that patients only travel to hospital when absolutely necessary and are referred on to the right part of

NHS Wales, where this is safe and clinically appropriate.

"While the majority of calls we receive via 999 are entirely appropriate, we also take some non-essential calls from people with colds, toothache, back ache and other minor conditions.

"Calls of this type put people's lives at risk as the ambulance attending that patient is not available for a serious road accident, heart attack or stroke.

"For advice and treatment of most illnesses, visit your GP, or call NHS Direct Wales on 0845 46 47 for confidential health advice and information. NHS Direct Wales is available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

"Please remember to only dial 999 in a life-threatening emergency, if someone is seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk."

Daffodil Week boost for Marie Curie charity



VAL FINUCANE organised the Daffodil Week collections in Cowbridge and the rest of the Vale, with collecting boxes left with many shops, coffee shops and pubs. She believes that this year will produce a record result.

Caffé Nero of Cowbridge were the winners after collecting over £90.

The photo shows a representative of Caffé Nero being presented with a prize by the committee chairman of the Cowbridge fundraising group.

Special family fun day at Ysgol y Deri

FAMILIES with disabled children in the Vale enjoyed activities during the sport and play family fun day at Ysgol y Deri over the Easter holidays.

The Vale Council's Sport and Play team joined forces with the Family Information Service and Ysgol y Deri, which is part of Penarth Learning Community, to

provide a day of sport and play activities for families whose children attend schools in the Vale.

Over 40 families took part in clay modelling, flower pot decorating, and a range of sports.

The Really Wild Show was also on hand with a range of animals, encouraging children to hold them while finding out about their natural habitats.

One of the aims was to introduce families to its school and the facilities.

The state-of-the-art sports hall, includes a floor that lifts up to reveal a number of trampolines.

There was also an opportunity for the children to see how hard they could strike a football with Powershot Wales, who presented medals and prizes to the children who took part.

One parent said: "Thank you so much for such a lovely family day. It was so lovely to see my child so happy in school and for his sisters to see his school and have fun with him. These sorts of experiences are invaluable in raising his self-esteem and attitude towards school."

The Family Fun Day was helped by funding from the Vale Council, Welsh Government Securing Play Opportunities funding and the Out Of School grant scheme, all of which were key in making the day a success.

For more information on Disability Sport and Play Opportunities, visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsandplay or call 01446 704748.

EASTER EGG HUNT CRACKS RECORD!

EASTER sunshine saw a record number of families taking part in the Easter Egg Trial at Cosmeston Lakes and Porthkerry Country Parks, when over 1,300 eager Easter egg hunters visited the two parks across the weekend.

Participants collected their maps, found the Easter egg posts, and answered the 10 questions to complete

the trail and claim their bag of chocolate goodies.

The Easter egg hunt trail, which has been held at Cosmeston Lakes and Porthkerry for the last four years, has become more and more successful each year.

Aaron Jones, park ranger, said: "This year was such a success, and we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part."

"We look forward to holding the Easter trail again next year for all you egg hunters!"

'More allotments are needed' – says local councillor

PLAID Cymru councillor **Ian Johnson** has called on the Vale of Glamorgan to increase its supply of allotments as recently published figures show more than 700 on waiting lists for Vale allotment space – with more than 600 of those in Barry.

He said: "The Vale Council has more than 700 names on its allotment waiting list,

with more than 600 in Barry alone.

"Allotments help us with sustainability in the environment. They are green lungs in an urban environment, and can reduce waste from packaging and food miles from farm to fork. "Gardening can also help improve mental as well as physical well-being and help people to live an active and healthy lifestyle, whatever their age."

"It is important that the council meets this currently unmet need in Barry."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Volunteer befrienders
If you are an older person who feels isolated in Llantwit Major, Cowbridge and the western Vale, Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale Good Neighbours can help with volunteer befrienders, a regular phone-link contact, and some transport needs.

The Llantwit Major office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 10am and 1pm, for all enquiries; or phone Bridget Palmer, Volunteer Coordinator on 01446 795549 (email bridget.palmer@ageconnectscardiff.org.uk).

Spring market
HIGH Street traders in Barry are holding a spring market on Saturday, May 16.

It runs from 10am to 4pm.

For more information, call either 01446 677010, or 01446 704788.

'Sing for water'
A MASSED choir of 700 singers will come together to help transform lives in Ghana – by 'singing for water' at an event on Roald Dahl Plas (the Oval Basin, Cardiff Bay) on Sunday, May 31.

For more information and to take part, see www.singforwatercardiff.org.

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Vale parliamentary candidates explain why they should be elected the local MP on May 7



by **ALAN ARMSTRONG,**
THE GREEN PARTY

Global warming could have devastating effects for future generations. To avoid this requires urgent action, otherwise, within 50 years, the UK could face catastrophic consequences. Concern for future generations is the reason I am standing in this election.

The Green Party is the only party that appreciates the need for radical change. The party has a cohesive set of policies designed to achieve a sustainable society characterised by social justice, a fair distribution of resources, and based on a clean-energy economy.

On a personal note, I have had a long career in social work. I am skilled at helping people resolve problems. As your MP, I would work hard to address the problems that adversely affect your well-being.

If you share my concerns for the future, and want an MP who will raise these concerns at the highest level, while meeting the needs of his constituents, vote for me.



by **ALUN CAIRNS, WELSH CONSERVATIVE PARTY**

It has been a privilege to serve the constituents of the Vale of Glamorgan since being elected in 2010. I have tried to achieve two main objectives locally – champion the area, and help local people who have been let down by the system.

Recently, I played a central role in securing the new fairground as part of the regeneration of Barry Island. I pushed hard to secure the deal, because I was certain that it would deliver such a major jobs boost for Barry and the wider Vale.

In the space of just a few weeks, we have seen an incredible start to the season, and it is just the start.

I have had the opportunity to help, often in a small way, many wonderful people over the past five years.

If I am re-elected on May 7, I will continue to offer my support to my fellow residents in the Vale, no matter what the issue may be.



by **CHRIS ELMORE,**
WELSH LABOUR

I'm standing to be your MP to make the Vale a fairer place. With 10,000 residents being supported by foodbanks and the poorest in our society being hit with a VAT rise and the 'bedroom tax', things need to change.

A Labour Government will scrap the bedroom tax, freeze energy bills until 2017, raise the minimum wage, and cut taxes for those on low and middle incomes.

I moved to Barry when I was a teenager, and have stayed here ever since. Being active in the community is important to me; I am chair of trustees at the Barry YMCA, a school governor, and work with groups such as Communities First and Flying Start. I started my life training as a butcher; I now work full time representing my local area as a councillor.

I will be a strong local voice for the Vale. Vote Labour for a fairer future.



by **IAN JOHNSON, PLAID CYMRU, THE PARTY OF WALES**

Plaid Cymru wants to see a successful Wales and a prosperous Vale of Glamorgan.

We will ensure that Wales gets the same deal as Scotland. That would mean an extra £1.2 billion pounds per year – £400 extra for every person in Wales – to improve our public services. With this money we can save and strengthen our NHS by training and recruiting more doctors and nurses.

We want to see investment in services, not cuts; and an end to the cruel 'bedroom tax' that affects almost 1,000 families in the Vale.

Having made Barry a regeneration town when in government, Plaid Cymru will prioritise investment in Barry to create jobs and opportunities on Barry Island, the Waterfront, Holton Road and the High Street.

Plaid Cymru has opposed housing over-development in the Vale's Local Development Plan, pushed for a moratorium on fracking, and fought against cuts to library services.



by **KEVIN MAHONEY**
UKIP

As the only Vale councillor to refuse all pay rises since being elected, as well as taking a further substantial, voluntary cut to my allowance, in empathy with council and private sector workers who are undergoing reductions in hours and wages, I feel I have shown my independence and determination to represent Vale residents' interests, rather than myself.

UKIP's main policies include a sensible, points-based immigration system, ending mass, uncontrolled immigration, which creates unsustainable pressures on housing, health, education and social welfare budgets.

We would scrap the unfair 'bedroom tax' and zero-hour contracts. We are the one party to stand up and support, by practical costed measures, our Armed Forces, while in service, and their continued welfare and wellbeing after leaving the Forces.

UKIP believes money raised in this country needs to be spent here, helping improve the lives of the people who earned and raised that money.



by **DAVID MORGAN,**
WELSH LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Liberal Democrats in Government have cut income tax by £800 for over a million workers.

We've also ensured the biggest ever rise in the state pension via our triple-lock.

We've provided funding for schools via the pupil premium/pupil deprivation grant and already provided up to £2,000 tax-free for child care.

In future, we'll protect the education budget from cradle to college, and increase the NHS budget by £8 billion, so Wales can also benefit.

In Government, we will balance the budget by 2018, cut income tax by a further £400, ensure more nurses on the wards, provide better mental health services, and an increased budget for the NHS.

We will extend the pupil premium/PDG to £2,500 per pupil, and deliver on fairer funding and devolved powers to Wales.



by **STEVEN REED, CANNABIS IS SAFER THAN ALCOHOL**

I represent the Cannabis Is Safer Than Alcohol Party (CISTA), which campaigns for a Royal Commission to review UK cannabis law.

We support a harm-reduction programme, seeking a regulated market to protect cannabis users from contact with criminal gangs that supply hard drugs.

Taxing cannabis sales could raise £1 billion to fund drug education programmes, police and the NHS; 85 per cent of voters believe the war on drugs is failing, costing lives, and criminalising otherwise good citizens.

To be your MP will be a privilege. MPs should only be paid for attendance in Parliament – no holiday/sick pay/pension.

For: EU referendum; proportional representation; minimum wage £8 per hour; road and rail investment; increased budgets for Armed Services, NHS, police and social housing.

Against: HS2, Trident, library cuts, tax evasion, zero hour contracts, 'bedroom tax', poverty.

I will fight for all angry voters demanding change
Vote CISTA.

Performers head for Dance World Cup

HUW BOUCHER, (12) from Penarth, won a gold medal for his ballet solo at the Bristol Eisteddfod.

He also won a trophy for the highest marks which entered him into the semi finals of the All England competition where he will be joined by Alys Thomas.

Huw is a pupil of Moya Vahey School of Russian Classical Ballet based in BIJOU, Cowbridge. Alys is trained by Ella Morgan in Pontyclun.

Both dancers are part of Team Wales who have reached the final of the Dance World Cup which takes place in Romania at the end of June.

Team Wales are very grateful for the money raised by the staff at the Co-Op in Cowbridge, Watts & Morgan and Cowbridge Rotary club.

MV

NEWS IN BRIEF

Elijah concert

CARDIFF Bach Choir with New Bristol Sinfonia will perform *Elijah* by Felix Mendelssohn on April 25 (7.30pm) at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, with conductor Tim Taylor and Paul Carey Jones as *Elijah*. Tickets available on 029 2039 1391.

RNLI campaign

MAY 1, 2 and 3 will see the launch of a nationwide campaign in aid of the RNLI when events will be taking place throughout the country.

In Penarth there will be collections in the town centre and seafront on the Friday and Saturday, and there will be a 5km charity walk around Penarth on Sunday. To participate or assist, contact rnlipenarth@hotmail.com.

Have Blooming Great Tea Party for Marie Curie...

EVERYONE living with a terminal illness should have access to high quality care and support, which meets all of their needs. Marie Curie want people to be able to get the most from the time they have left.

The charity is for people living with cancer or any other terminal illness and their families.

The right care and support at the right time can make all the difference.

There are more than 140 Marie Curie nurses working in Wales, caring

for around 2,300 terminally ill people and their families in their homes each year, with nearly 2,000 Marie Curie nurses working across the UK.

These nurses work night and day, in people's homes, providing hands-on care and vital emotional support.

The Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth cares for around 1,200 people each year, some staying in the hospice for specialist round-the-clock care, others coming in for the day to use the hospice's services.

The charity also supports people throughout their illness by giving practical

information and guidance, support from trained volunteers and being there when someone wants to talk.

Not least, they are a leader in research into better care for terminally ill people, a major centre is the Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Centre, Cardiff.

Over the last 60 years, they have helped hundreds of thousands of people and families. The ageing population means more and more people are living with a terminal illness.

Even now, carers say seven out of every 10 people with a terminal illness don't get all the care and support they

need. Marie Curie do not think that's good enough. They think more has to be done and are asking for your support to make that possible.

Could you host or attend a Blooming Great Tea Party between June 20 and 29 to raise funds for the charity at your house, a friend's house or anywhere you like?

Last year, the Blooming Great Tea Party raised £667,000 across the UK, which paid for 33,350 hours of vital nursing care.

You can sign up to host your Blooming Great Tea Party at

www.mariecurie.org.uk/teatime; you can also contact the West Wales fundraising office on 01554 759071 or westwalesfundraising@mariecurie.org.uk for advice.

Please share your event details, photos with them or get involved on social media using #BloomingGreat.

To get help from the Marie Curie Nursing Service, talk to your GP, district nurse or discharge nurse. For other support, visit www.mariecurie.org.uk or the Marie Curie Support Line 0800 090 2309 (open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday - calls from landlines are free, but there may be a charge if you're calling from a mobile).

Music in Hospitals set to return to the wards!

MUSIC IN HOSPITALS is returning to Cardiff and Vale University Health Board for the second year running.

It sets out to improve the quality of life of adults with all kinds of illness and disability in hospitals, hospices, day care centres and nursing homes through the joy and therapeutic benefits of professionally performed live music.

Robert Aitken CBE, Director, Music in Hospitals Wales, said: "It is always a pleasure to work with people who value the importance of integrating the arts into healthcare, ultimately enhancing the patient experience. We hope to continue our partnership with Cardiff and Vale Health charity for

many years to come."

Simone Joslyn, Clinical Project Lead, said: "We aim to bring music to patients, in particular vulnerable adults and young people, especially those who really appreciate some distraction on wards as they are often unable to leave. Music helps boost patient and staff morale."

"It's great to see patients and visitors enjoying themselves, tapping along to the beat of the music and getting involved in the performance."

Concerts will take place throughout the year at St David's Hospital, Barry Hospital, University Hospital of Wales, Whitchurch Hospital, Iorwerth Jones Centre, Rookwood Hospital, and University Hospital, Llandough.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many people have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthkerry areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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IOLO'S DRUMMING MARATHON PAYS OFF FOR WATER CHARITY

Report by PHILIP IRWIN

IOLO WHELAN, the Vale musician who marked his 40th birthday by drumming non-stop for 40 hours – is now happily recovering – helped by the knowledge that he has almost doubled his fundraising target!

Iolo played drums and percussion for 40 hours, from 8am on Friday, April 17, until midnight on April 18.

His sister Luned said: "He declared himself to be feeling great, and proceeded to have a dance with his wife Rachel, who was the first to congratulate him at the end of the challenge."

"He would like to thank all the team who helped him before, during and after the event, and everyone who has supported the cause of his chosen charity, WaterAid in many different ways."

"The running total

now is over £7,000 and is still rising. Iolo reached his target of £4,000 shortly before midnight on Saturday, which was a cause for great celebration among the audience!"

Iolo's marathon took place in a unique location, in a roundhouse in the St Hilary area (right). Iolo told The GEM: "When we finished university, I and three friends decided to build an Iron Age roundhouse, using as many traditional materials as possible."

When they completed the task, rather than rest on their laurels, they decided they could do better, so they knocked it down, started again and built the existing structure.

It made for a unique venue for an occasion where Iolo was joined (at various times) by friends and family from around the Vale.

It is still possible to donate, to the address www.justgiving.com/TheBigBash2015.

LLANCARFAN JUMBLE SALE
LLANCARFAN Ladies Tuesday Club are holding their annual jumble sale (raising cash for local charities) on April 25 at 1.30pm (no entrance fee) in Llanccarfan village hall.

There will be a wide selection of good quality clothes, household, bric-a-brac, jewellery, toys and plants.



Beer is named after marathon man Mark

RIGHT:
Mark Ley with his 'Marathon Man' beer.

BRAINS Brewery is set to release a limited edition beer to raise funds for its nominated charity, Tenovus Cancer Care.

Marathon Man is named in honour of Mark Ley, people trainer at Brains, who will run this year's London Marathon in support of the charity.



The beer Mark helped to create, is a 4.3 per cent American-style brown ale brewed at Brains' craft brewing extension Brains Craft Brewery. It will be stocked for a limited period in a selection of Brains' own pubs, starting with the Yard in Cardiff this week, and 25p from every pint sold will be donated to the charity.

Mark explained: "I am so happy that I was able to brew a beer in our Craft Brewery, and even happier that there will be a donation from sales of Marathon Man to Tenovus Cancer Care. Brewing the beer with our head brewer Bill Dobson was such a great experience, and the beer is looking and tasting great!"

"Training for the marathon has been hard but I am really looking forward to running the London Marathon and hope to make a great contribution to Brains' fundraising effort for Tenovus Cancer Care."

Folk music workshops

THERE will be folk music workshops at Dinas Powys Fringe Festival on May 27.

Starting at 11am, Andy Clarke and Steve Tyler will be at the Murchfield Community Centre, Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys, for the day.

There is also a folk/acoustic concert in the evening with Andy and Steve, Tom Fitton and Slipstone (Huw Chidgey and Mel Carew).

The workshops are free but places need to be booked on 07765 513424, www.ticketsource.co.uk/murchfieldcommunitycentre.

Shadows Club
THE South Wales Shadows Club's meeting is on May 12, in the Conservative Club, Stanwell Road, Penarth (Telephone 02920 309979).



ABOVE: Just over 27 hours into the challenge and Iolo is still going strong. Photograph by Mandy Thomas (www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk).

Olympian Jamie will lead next Mair's Walk

HUNDREDS of walkers are set to embark on the ninth annual 'Mair's Walk' on Sunday, June 7 at 11am, to raise funds for the Stepping Stones Appeal, supporting lung cancer research at Velindre Cancer Centre.

This popular three-mile walk takes in stunning scenery from Bridgend Recreation Centre, through Newbridge Fields and the village of Merthyr Mawr, before ending the other side of the stepping stones crossing the river. It will be led by former Welsh and Olympic athlete Jamie Baulch.

Into its ninth year, the annual walk has raised £182,000, which has been key to funding specialised equipment and procedures at Velindre Cancer Centre that wouldn't have been possible without the fundraising efforts.

The walk is the brainchild of Mair ap Gruffudd, who had lung cancer and felt she needed to give something back to

Velindre Cancer Centre after receiving excellent care.

On speaking to her oncologist, Dr Jason Lester, the Stepping Stones Appeal was born – taking its name from the fact that each step from diagnosis and treatment to finding a cure is a stepping stone, as well as the walk finishing up at the stepping stones at Ogmere Farm, Ogmere-by-Sea.

The afternoon is filled with entertainment for the whole family including music, hog roast, bouncy castle, face painting, a bar, raffle and much more!

Register by May 1 to receive a free walk t-

shirt. Entry is £10 per person and children under 16 are free. Fancy dress is optional and there is a prize for the best outfit.

Entry forms are available from: The Bridgend Foot Clinic, 5 Nolton Street, Bridgend CF31 1BX, telephone 01656 766446; James Mordecau, HRT Estate Agents, The Tool House, 1 Derwen Road, Bridgend CF31 1LH; or book online at: www.velindrefundraising.com/bookonline.

You can also register on the day of the walk. Registration will be open from 9.30am at Bridgend Recreation Centre.

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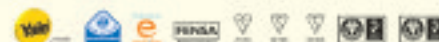
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MPN's Best in Wales for the fourth time!

...Six-times World Snooker Champion presents award

Local home improvement company, MPN Windows has once again been named 'Best in Wales' for customer satisfaction, meaning the family-run company has now collected this award an impressive four times!

MPN's trophy comes from the independent window installers' organisation Network VEKA, a unique, sectoral standards organisation that only accepts the very best, most professional window and door companies, and then makes sure they stay the best. All prospective members undergo rigorous vetting before being accepted and must agree to regular audits and training. In this way, Network VEKA can be so confident in the quality of its members' work that every one is able to offer the organisation's ten year insurance-backed guarantee.

The results are calculated from the customer satisfaction feedback of nearly 16,000 households across Britain and Ireland: every customer of every member company for the whole year.

The trophy was presented at Network VEKA's AGM in Stratford-upon-Avon, by the organisation's Brand Ambassador Steve Davis.

The Six-Times World Snooker Champion told the MPN team: "As a Network VEKA member, you are competing against the best of the best - so to win 'Best in Wales' for a fourth time really is a fantastic achievement. Your customers obviously appreciate all your hard work."

Pictured: Melanie and Paul Webster with Steve Davis.



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Readers' Letters

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LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Congratulations to Vale's talented youngsters...'

An outstanding musical triumph for local schools

I WOULD like to congratulate the young people of the Vale of Glamorgan who have yet again won national recognition for their outstanding success in the field of music.

Saturday night saw Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg win the finals of a competition to find the best primary school choir in Wales. The standard of all the choirs in the final on S4C was absolutely amazing, but the performance of our own Welsh medium school was flawless – a great success following their win as best choir on Songs of Praise.

The choir Heol y March followed this

by winning the senior choir competition staged by S4C on Sunday evening.

These young singers were again from The Vale of Glamorgan. The conductor of both these choirs was Eleri Roberts, and how fortunate are we to have such an eminent music teacher to work with our young people in the Vale. We owe her a great deal.

If you have never heard either of these wonderful choirs, look out for any possible occasions to hear them that might arise!

My thanks to all involved in two evenings of superb entertainment.

Gwen Baty,
Cowbridge.

Is this the future for our NHS?

WITH the NHS being at the forefront of the general election debate, it was interesting that on a recent visit to my GP's surgery to find that the list of private health charges had been moved from an obscure part of the waiting room to a very prominent position.

This new, highlighted, notice advertised the present

charges for private treatment, examples of which were consultation with either doctor or nurse... 10 minutes £30, 15 minutes £45, 30 minutes £90, and a home visit £100.

Could this notice reflect how GPs view the future of the Health Service, as they are all private practices funded, at present, by the NHS.

Think carefully how you use your vote, as the NHS is facing a very uncertain future.
CW Wright,
Barry.

Who creates the wealth?

IN the 19th century, because he owned some south Wales coal mines and Cardiff docks, the Marquis of Bute made more money out of every ton of coal exported than all the miners and dockers involved put together.

Since he also owned a vast number of homes in Cardiff, for which citizens paid rent all their lives, dying as poor as when they were born, he prospered hugely.

And we all know how he chose to spend all that wealth which had been torn from beneath the earth.

This is what Conservatives seek to conserve today – that the 'Super Rich' shall control society, to the detriment of all the rest of us.

If you are foolish enough to believe such irrational economics, then the Marquis, like today's Super Rich, is the 'Wealth Creator', not the miners who risked their lives digging coal.
Neville Westerman,
Brynna.

Chance to show off your garden

WITH spring in full swing and the lighter evenings here to stay, I wanted to encourage your readers to get back in their gardens over the months ahead in order to make the most of their outdoor spaces.

I have been gardening for over 50 years and love nothing more than spending a few hours pottering around in the garden or allotment, making the most of these wonderful spring evenings.

With the great

outdoors very much in mind, I have recently collaborated with National Trust Wales, who have just launched a new national competition called #NTWalesGardenProud, which aims to get people across the Vale to showcase and share their outdoor spaces via social media channels, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

To win an exclusive half-day consultation with a National Trust Wales gardener, as well as a whole host of other 'money can't buy' National Trust Wales prizes, all your readers need to do is simply submit photos of their outdoor spaces by posting to Facebook,

Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag #NTWalesGardenProud. Alternatively, email entries to gardenproud@workingwales.org.uk

Why not pop along

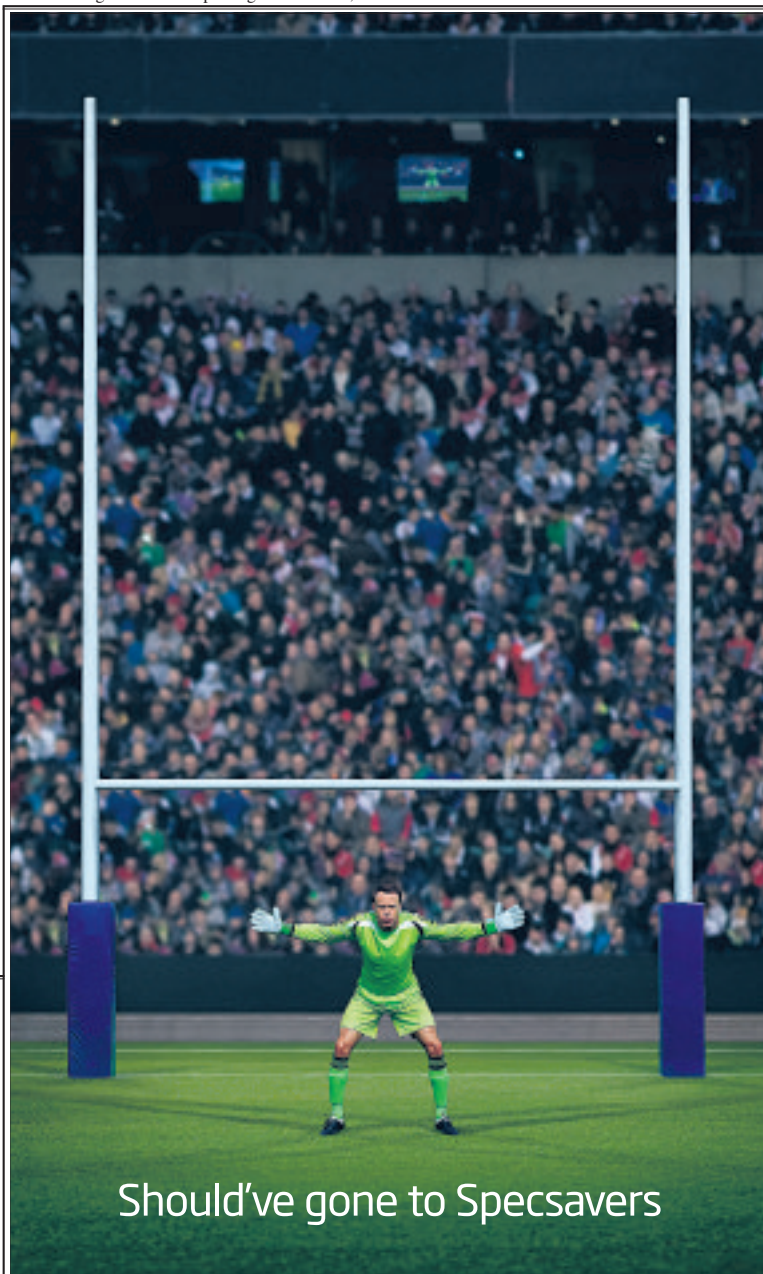
one day to Dyffryn Gardens to see the beautiful grounds bloom into life and get some inspiration for your next gardening project?
Terry Walton,
BBC Radio Wales.

'Take your dog poo home with you!'

I WOULD like to dispel the myth that there is a dog poo fairy. If you pick up your dog mess in a black tie plastic bag in the Maes Glas area, please take it home with you.

Dumping it on people's front gardens is unacceptable; why should someone else be responsible for it? It is your responsibility!

You have gone to the trouble of picking the mess up; deal with it with consideration for others.
Chris Goring,
Barry.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Parkinson's group sessions

THE first self-management group by Parkinson's UK will launch in Bridgend on Tuesday, June 2, with one session per week for six weeks (from 1pm – 3.30pm) at the Care & Repair offices, Brocastle Manor.

People with Parkinson's, partner or carer, can meet like-minded people, to discuss daily living with Parkinson's.

The sessions are free of charge, but participants must book a place by calling 02079 633924, or email selfmanagement@parkinsons.org.uk.

Defibrillator training

A defibrillator is to be donated to The Paget Rooms in Penarth by Welsh Hearts/Calonnau Cymru, The Heart Charity for

Wales, which is holding a free CPR and defibrillator training session at the Paget Rooms on Tuesday, June 9 (7pm to 9pm).

"Welsh Hearts, in partnership with strategic partners, aims to equip people with emergency vital life saving skills and the knowledge and actions that could save a life," a spokesperson explains.

"Training will be given in CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), a first aid technique that is a combination of rescue breaths and chest compressions and training on how to use a defibrillator – a life saving machine used to shock a person's heart back into its normal rhythm after a cardiac arrest."

For more information, contact Welsh Hearts on 02920 786521 or email fundraising@welshhearts.org.

CCTV arrests in the Vale

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council's CCTV team contacted police a total of 36 times during the week ending April 19.

On April 14, one person was arrested on Boverton Road in Llantwit Major for allegedly driving while disqualified. On the same day an arrest was made on Bassett Street in Barry concerning theft.

On April 16 one person was arrested on Holton Road, Barry, also concerning theft.

On April 19 one person was cautioned over possession of cannabis on Gladstone Road, Barry.

ELERI'S BOYS AND GIRLS SING OUT AND ARE DOUBLE CHAMPS!

Report by PHILIP IRWIN

IN a stunning weekend for local choral singing, two young choirs with strong Cowbridge connections won two national competitions on S4C – and both were conducted by Eleri Roberts from Welsh St Donats! **PHILIP IRWIN**

First, on Saturday, April 18, the school choir from Ysgol Iolo Morganwg became the top primary school choir in Wales in S4C's Cŵr Cymru Cynradd 2015.

This followed on from the school's triumph last year in the UK-wide Junior Songs of Praise competition.

Then, the following evening (April 19) Cŵr Heol y March, Eleri Roberts' children's choir based near Welsh St Donats, beat 'grown up' choirs to win the coveted Cŵr Cymru (Choir of Wales) prize in the competition's final, which was televised live on S4C from Aberystwyth.

Eight Ysgol Iolo Morganwg pupils are members of both successful choirs.

After being one of

only four children's choirs selected from all over Wales in the preliminary round earlier this year, and then winning the children's choir category semi-final a few weeks ago, Cŵr Heol y March competed against the winners of the other semi-finals – the youth choir, male voice choir, ladies choir and mixed voice choir categories – in the grand final.

The other finalists were: the winner of the mixed category, Cywair of Newcastle Emlyn; Parti Lluchwr women's choir from Loughor; youth choir category winner Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion; and the winner of the male voice choir category, Bechgyn Bro Taf from Cardiff.

A panel of international judges awarded the first prize to Cŵr Heol y March for their "convincing" and "musical" performance of five songs sung in Welsh, English, Latin, and Japanese!

Choir conductor Eleri Roberts said: "The children have worked really hard over the last few months to win this prize, which is regarded

as the biggest honour for Welsh choirs.

"It's incredible that a group of children aged 16 and under, with the youngest members being only eight years old, have achieved this and I am so proud of them!

"I also want to thank all the parents especially Alison Huw, Karen Lewis and Rhian Fenn, and our accompanists Ieuan Jones and Eluned Pierce"

Cŵr Heol y March now hold two prestigious titles – Cŵr Cymru 2015, and Children's Choir of the World 2014, which they won at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod last July.

The evening was presented by broadcasters Morgan Jones and Heledd Cynwal.

Cŵr Cymru presenter Heledd Cynwal said: "It's a wonderful experience to host this competition, which is exciting and multi-layered. Unlike the National Eisteddfod, the international judges are blind to the initial auditions and every choir begins with a clean



It's Sunday night and Eleri Roberts and Cŵr Heol y March celebrate their victory in Aberystwyth.

slate – that's what makes Cŵr Cymru unique.

"Seeing the choirs mixing backstage is very rewarding, and it's great that they receive

immediate feedback from the judges."

Elen Rhys, S4C content commissioner entertainment said: "Many congratulations

to Cŵr Heol y March and indeed to all the choirs who took part this year. We had an unforgettable night of passionate singing by different

choirs and it just goes to show that Wales really is the land of song.

"This competition is going from strength to strength and I wish the

winners all the very best for the future."

The competition has been held every two years since 2003.

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Choir 'Maternal Harmony' is set for its second annual concert

A WOMEN'S choir based at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, will hold its second annual concert next month.

Maternal Harmony was originally aimed at women with postnatal depression but also includes those with other mental health issues and family members wanting to support the cause.

It was set up by the Perinatal Response and Management Service (PRAMS) at Princess of Wales and won an ABMU chairman's award in its inaugural year.

PRAMS is a specialist mental health service offering assessment and treatment of mood disorders during and after pregnancy.

Women are given access to medication advice, home visits and antenatal and postnatal groups.

Perinatal nurse specialist Gail James said: "We have opened up the choir to people who don't have postnatal depression but do support the cause."

Some, but not all of them, have other mental health issues.

"Being in the choir gives you focus and support. It gives you an interest in life and helps you feel part of something."

"The power of music can definitely make you feel better."

It has been a busy year for the choir, including performing at weddings, a gala dinner, a Swansea University conference and elsewhere.

Their second annual concert will take place in Grace Church, Bridgend, on Saturday, May 9.

Tickets cost £2.50, with children free, and are available by emailing

Francesca.Fearn@wales.nhs.uk. Anyone interested in joining the choir can go along to a rehearsal in the Princess of Wales Hospital on Thursday nights from 7pm-9pm.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

New self storage company has confidence in Bridgend

THE leading storage experts, Dainton Self Storage, have chosen Bridgend county borough as the ideal location for their first site in Wales, and it will be open in May.

The company has bought a 10.5 acre brown field site on Coity Road, and is investing a further £300,000 to bring "fantastic" new self storage facilities to Bridgend, just a couple of minutes' drive from

the town centre.

A company spokesman said: "The site will be well positioned to serve not only the commercial and domestic market of Bridgend but most of Mid Glamorgan."

Secure storage units will range in size from 35 sq ft to 320 sq ft, making them ideal for storing anything from a few boxes to the contents of a large five bedroom house.

Dainton Self Storage will also be offering secure external storage for caravans, boats, motor homes and

vehicles, all of which can be stored on the site, safely wrapped up by 8ft high palisade fencing and monitored 24 hours a day by CCTV.

Dainton will also specialise in providing portable buildings and shipping containers for sale and hire. Managing Director Paul Maddicott said: "We are really excited about opening our 12th site in Bridgend, especially as this is our first in Wales. Our other sites are mainly concentrated in the West Country but Bridgend really does seem to be a

great place to invest in at the moment, and we are hopeful this will prove to be the first of many in Wales."

Dainton's first self storage facility was opened in 2002 at Heathfield in Devon. Since then Dainton has opened in Plymouth, Barnstaple, Exeter, Torquay, Paignton, Ipplepen and St Austell, with expansion plans for storage facilities in Bristol, Gloucester and Darlington before the end of the year.

Self storage first came to prominence during the 1960s in America and has become an economically resilient industry in the UK as demand for storage space increases. Self storage provides consumers with their own secure space that they can access whenever they want by way of electronic key access.

Dainton's is a family-run business and its owner, Paul Maddicott, attributes its growth and ongoing success to the traditional values that founded the company; providing excellent customer service, best value and understanding their customers' needs.

Dogs Trust 'concerned' over road diversion

STAFF at Dogs Trust Bridgend are concerned that road closures to make way for a new solar park will stop their homeless hounds from finding loving homes.

The charity would like to alert the public to the lane closure, which may disrupt travel to the rehoming centre for five weeks from April 21 and hope potential owners won't bypass any poaches.

Dogs Trust Bridgend is also keen to highlight that their training classes, Thursday evening from 6pm to 9pm, will go ahead as usual.

Rehoming centre manager Beverley Price said: "Over the next five weeks, visitors to our centre will be required

to take an alternative route. However, the diversion will be clearly signposted and will take under 10 minutes. We have lots of lovely dogs all hopeful of finding new homes and they all have their paws crossed that the five weeks of disruption won't deter visitors from heading to Dogs Trust Bridgend."

"Puppies such as adorable crossbreed Pip would normally find homes within days, but we fear the road closure may mean it will take considerably longer for her to finally find her 'furry tail' ending."

Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-Y-Fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG, is open 12 noon to 4pm Thursday to Tuesday (closed Wednesdays).

See top right 'Fan could be your new friend' for the latest appeal.

Will Fan become your new friend?

The GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for inmates at the Bridgend rehoming centre. Tel 01656 725219.

FAN is nine years old and is quite typical of a working sheep dog, sensitive but strong. Fan does mix with other dogs and enjoys the company of smaller dogs as long as



they are not annoying her!

She enjoys her walks, but is better being driven to somewhere a bit more quiet and away from livestock. She would be ideal for a collie experienced, active home, with a patient owner who will give her time to settle in. Children in the home will need to be 14 years and over.

LINDA FEAGAN
Supporter Relations Officer,
Dogs Trust Bridgend

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Parkinson's: star's appeal

MY brother-in-law was diagnosed with Parkinson's about 15 years ago, and was my original inspiration for joining Parkinson's UK.

I have supported and worked with them ever since, and over the years have seen at first hand the pain and struggles that living with this devastating condition can entail.

At the start of Parkinson's Awareness Week, a new survey from Parkinson's UK revealed that an estimated 69,000 people in the UK with Parkinson's have experienced hostility and rudeness from members of the public.

It's unbearable to think of the suffering this can cause – it's bad enough, for example, having a long-term, incurable condition which can cause you to slur your speech and be unsteady on your feet, without being mistaken by a member of the public for being drunk.

I was shocked by the enormous number of people with Parkinson's who regularly come up against public

misunderstanding and unintentional cruelty – a third of people in our survey have been stared at, a quarter had their symptoms mistaken for drunkenness, and one in 10 have been laughed at because of their symptoms.

This hostility can have a profound effect on people with Parkinson's, increasing their depression and anxiety, and leaving some people too frightened to leave their homes.

To combat this, we are urging people to become friendlier by pledging to do small acts of kindness such as smiling and being more patient. In particular, we ask people not to make assumptions or jump to conclusions that can make an enormous difference to all of us – especially people with Parkinson's. I do hope your readers will join me in pledging to make a difference.

For more information on Parkinson's Awareness Week, visit youfriendly.com.

Jane Asher
president, Parkinson's UK,
215 Vauxhall Bridge Road,
London SW1V 1EJ.

VOLUNTEER AS A MARIE CURIE HELPER

THE Marie Curie helper service is looking for volunteers to support people living with a terminal illness, and their families, throughout the Vale.

Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale hospice on Bridgeman Road in Penarth will host two sessions on Wednesday, May 6 (6pm – 8pm) and

Friday, May 8 (1pm – 3pm) to provide more information about volunteering opportunities.

Volunteers will be specially trained and matched with a person living with a terminal illness, in order to provide support for up to three hours a week for that person and their loved ones.

For details, call 08450 738596 or email southwaleshelper@mariecurie.org.uk

BCBC in line for new award

SEVEN of Wales' most deaf-friendly organisations have been shortlisted for a new Welsh award, including Bridgend County Borough Council.

The charity Action on Hearing Loss Cymru (formerly the RNID) has launched the Excellence Wales Award, to recognise the businesses and organisations in Wales who "go the extra mile to ensure they are

accessible to the one-in-six people who are deaf or have hearing loss".

The seven also include the National Assembly for Wales and Welsh Ambulance Service Trust.

An independent judging panel will now decide on the Gold, Silver and Bronze category winners, which will be announced at the Action on Hearing Loss Cymru Gala dinner on May 15 at the Hilton Hotel in Cardiff.

LOCAL CAB SESSIONS

THE Citizens Advice Bureau, in partnership with Barry Communities First, is offering drop-in advice sessions in Barry, on debt, benefits and other issues at the Community Enterprise Centre, Skomer Road on Mondays between 9.30am-12.30pm; or at Coastlands Family Church, Tennyson Road, Colcot on Thursdays between 4.30pm-6pm.

A drop-in service is also available at the Citizens Advice Bureau office on 119 Broad Street, Barry, from Monday to Friday, 9.30am-4.30pm or on telephone advice line 03444 77 20 20.

LLANTWIT MAJOR & COWBRIDGE LIONS CLUB

COWBRIDGE MAY FAIR

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY • MAY 4, 2015

The Cowbridge May Fair builds on success and offers a real family fun day

by PHILIP IRWIN

IT was around three years ago that the Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club set its sights on reviving an old rural tradition in the Vale – the Cowbridge May Fair.

The club had already enjoyed success by being heavily involved in reviving a similar traditional event in Llantwit Major – a community event that had many of the attractions of the old time country fairs.

However, that Llantwit event took place every two years, so as not to clash with the town's Victorian Fayre, so club members, particularly those from Cowbridge, turned their thoughts to what to do in the 'fallow' year.

Club chairman John Andrew told The GEM: "Reviving the Cowbridge May Fair

was the obvious thing to do, and we found that there was great enthusiasm from the community."

What happened was that the first such fair, on May Day in 2013, was hailed a great success, and under clear blue skies the Bear Field in the town was packed throughout the day.

Local primary schools enthusiastically embraced the idea of dancing around the maypole, and set about learning traditional folk dances.

Teams were put together for a tug of war contest, and traders, crafters and voluntary groups came forward to take stalls on the field.

A stage was set up, and music was played all day, from local pop/rock groups to a wide variety of local choirs.

This year, on Monday, May 4, it's very much a question of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" but there will be



a number of extra attractions for visitors – reflecting the success of two years ago.

A spokesman for the Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions told The GEM: "The Cowbridge May Fair programme is taking shape."

"On the stage there will be a variety of

musical acts including pop/rock by CMBR, St Donat's Choral, Cowbridge Rock Choir, CAOS and Stagecoach.

"On the field, there will be the traditional maypole plus gymnastics, zumba, Taekwondo, fun races and tug-of-war."

"In addition, there will be a great variety of stalls both on the field and in the leisure centre."

John Andrew said that the Lions were delighted that the leisure centre had come on board this year, and it was hosting a soft play area that should prove very popular.

When it comes to traditional attractions,

there is nothing more traditional than a 'bonny baby' competition. This will take place at 2pm, and the judge will be Vale AM Jane Hutt.

The Lions are particularly keen to see a strong tug of war competition, as it has been a traditional contest of strength at fairs, and can trace its origins back to ancient times.

At the 2013 Cowbridge May Fair, the Tug-of-War Shield was won by the Town Crier's team in a hard-fought 'pull off' against a team from Filco Cowbridge.

John Andrew said: "When we invited teams to come forward

some three weeks ago, we had an excellent response, but some keen competitors said that they were having trouble raising a team from among their own circle of friends."

"With that in mind, we will be happy to make up teams on the day from any interested individuals."

If you would like to enter a team, or to be considered for a team made up on the day, contact Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions via the web site www.lmandclions.org.uk or by email info@lmandclions.org.uk.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

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LLANTWIT MAJOR & COWBRIDGE LIONS CLUB

COWBRIDGE MAY FAIR

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY • MAY 4, 2015



What's on at the Cowbridge May Fair

THE running order for performers on the main stage at the Cowbridge May Fair (timings may change on the day) are as follows:

10.30am – CMBR (pop/rock).

11am – Official opening by the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Peter Knapp.

11.10am – St Donat's Chorale.

11.45am – Cowbridge Rock Choir.

12.30pm – C A O S (Cowbridge Amateur Operatic Society).

1.15pm – Stagecoach Bridgend and Cowbridge.

2.15pm – Cowbridge Rock Choir.

4pm – Stiph Richard (pop/rock).

FIELD EVENTS during the day (timings may change on the day) are as follows.

11.10am – Vale Gymnastics.

1.30 – Zumba and Rebound.

2pm – Bonny Baby Competition.

2pm – Laughter Yoga.

2.30 – Llantwit Major Taekwondo.

3pm – Childrens Fun Races

Note: Maypole dances and the Tug of War competition will be operating throughout the day.

May Fair for family fun!



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

Another attraction this year will be a visit from the Cowbridge Fire Station, who will be bringing along their fire engine. It will be parked outside the leisure centre.

For Top Gear addicts suffering withdrawal symptoms after Jeremy Clarkson's travails, there will be some serious horse power on display, courtesy of the Maserati dealership in Cardiff.

There will be six prestige vehicles on the field: two Maseratis, two Lexus and two Toyotas.

All in all, the signs are excellent for another bustling community event which has every chance of repeating the success of two years ago!

The May Fair is designed for family fun, has a track record of delivering, so what better way is there to spend a bank holiday Monday?

Keep reading your free weekly GEM for more news on the May Fair, and for a full report and pictures!



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Out and About with The GEM

PLENTY OF POTENTIAL TO CREATE A THRILLER THAT WORKS, BUT... Child 44 is cumbersome and disjointed bore



by
GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen
Talk on Twitter –
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TOM HARDY has come a long way from playing the evil clone of Jean-Luc Picard in *Star Trek: Nemesis* in 2002 (incidentally, the only film this hardy soul has ever walked out of).

After the double hit of his sterling supporting turn in Christopher Nolan's *Inception* and the incendiary portrayal of Charles Bronson in *Bronson*, Hardy has

ploughed a furrow that has seen him take on both epic films (*The Dark Knight Rises*) and smaller fare (*Locke*).

His latest, *Child 44*, is an adaptation of a novel by Tom Rob Smith, and sees him play Leo, a member of the military police in Stalin's Russia in 1953. When he starts to investigate a series of child murders (despite Stalin dictating that murder isn't a crime), he and his wife Raisa (Noomi Rapace) are sent away from Moscow in disgrace.

Leo will not let the matter rest and takes the investigation into his own hands, despite the risks it poses to him and those close to him...

There are several themes that run through *Child 44* – there is that of a man doing the right thing against the wishes of his superiors, and even his family – the notion that murder is nothing more than a

'capitalist disease' and, therefore, not a crime – with the added dash of a dysfunctional relationship, all set against the oppressive backdrop of a Stalinist Russia just emerging from the shadows of World War Two.

Unfortunately, these themes are not fully explored in what is a lengthy, dull and rather portentous thriller that replaces loftier concerns and questions, with rote clichés and story elements that reduce what could have been something intriguing to something no more than a potboiler.

Early on, we learn that the main character of Leo is an orphan, battling to survive and taken in by a kindly soldier, thus creating a connection when he stumbles upon the 'murders' of youngsters across Moscow.

However, this is thoroughly glossed over. The notion of

murder being a disease rather than a crime, therefore allowing anyone with murderous intent free rein, is also glossed over – referred to but never digging too deeply into it.

These are just two examples of the frustrations encountered by this film, which ultimately becomes a melting pot of these elements, but never knows quite what it wants to be. One minute it's a race against time thriller about catching a killer, then it becomes a film about revenge, a good man being oppressed by a boo, hiss, villain – and then the next minute, it's a study of a relationship tested by the duplicity and

paranoia of this period in Russia's history.

Richard Price's screenplay never manages to coalesce these strands into a satisfying whole, a flaw that even the best director would struggle to work with, but under the direction of Daniel Espinosa (whose English-language debut, *Safe House*, was a by-the-numbers action thriller) it simply becomes a bit of a bore; Espinosa's direction suitably bleak and oppressive but straining to create big sequences rather than concentrating on the minutiae.

The performances are all encumbered by actors struggling with their accents, the film

sounding like an audition to voice a certain Meerkat-fronted website advert, with Tom Hardy not faring particularly well as his character, although noble and well-intentioned, never really engages you as a viewer.

Noomi Rapace is a bland collection of grimacing facial expressions, Gary Oldman offers little but gravitas, while Joel Kinnaman's Vasili merely sneers and hits the broad, 'bad guy' notes.

It's a shame, as there was plenty of potential to engage the brain and create a thriller that works on more than just the basic level, but *Child 44* even fails on

the front, the 'whodunnit' aspect a footnote in what is ultimately an underwhelming, and boring, effort.

VERDICT: As unthrilling a thriller as you are likely to find, the most interesting aspects of *Child 44*'s narrative are buried beneath a landslide of weak performances and a confused screenplay. Daniel Espinosa's direction doesn't help matters, but this is a failure across the board in what is a leaden, cumbersome and disjointed piece of work. *Poor.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Bone Collector* (1999), *Se7en* (1995).

Garden now open at Southerndown

SLADE GARDEN, Southerndown, Vale of Glamorgan, CF32 0RP...

Set in eight acres, Slade garden is an unexpected gem with established drifts of spring bulbs and a woodland plant collection. The terraced lawns, mature specimen trees, living willow arbours, rose and clematis pergola, orchard and herbaceous borders, create a very natural garden.

Husband's new passion – auriculas and alpinists! Extensive views over the Bristol Channel.

Heritage Coast wardens will give guided tours of adjacent Dunraven Gardens with slide shows every hour from 2pm.

Opening information: Saturday, April 25, Sunday April 26 (2pm-5pm). Admission £4, children free. Homemade teas.

Disney's Magical Festival on Ice!

DISNEY ON ICE returns to the Motorpoint Arena, Cardiff with a Magical Ice Festival from April 29 – May 3.

It will be the first *Disney On Ice* show featuring much-loved sisters Anna and Elsa from the popular animated film, Disney's *Frozen*. It also features favourite characters from Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, *Tangled* and *Beauty and The Beast*.

"Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse will be bringing magical moments from across the Disney kingdom," a spokeswoman said.

Comical segments from everyone's

favourite Disney characters set the scene for the show stopping on-ice stories of princesses Ariel, Rapunzel and Belle.

There will be a special appearance by Anna and Elsa from the Academy Award-winning *Frozen*.

Audiences will journey up the North Mountains with the hilarious snowman Olaf, rugged mountain-man Kristoff and his loyal reindeer Sven as they help the sisters along the way in a story full of action, adventure, magic and unforgettable characters.

For tickets and further information, contact the venue or disneyonice.co.uk.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE?

Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale AM, Jane Huft, will hold a surgery this Saturday (April 25) from 12 noon to 1pm at St Bride's Major Church Hall, CF32 0SD. No appointment necessary.

Plant sale

VOLUNTEERS from the Cowbridge Physic Garden will be holding their annual plant sale in the gardens of Old Hall, Cowbridge on Saturday, April 25, starting at 10am. There is a chance to discuss horticultural issues with experts from the Garden.

Other nursery stalls will also be available, and a raffle.

Art Society

ON Thursday, April 30, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes Llantwit Major artist Nick Davies, who will give a demonstration of ink drawing using pipettes and sticks.

Nick, who has exhibited in numerous galleries throughout south Wales, as well as in Oscars, Cowbridge, specialises in landscape paintings. The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge from 7pm-9pm and visitors and new

members are welcome. For details of activities see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

RNLI AGM

THE annual general meeting of the Penarth fundraising section of the RNLI will be held at Penarth Yacht Club on Wednesday, April 29 at 2.15pm. All are welcome to attend.

Gardening Club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be the AGM and planting evening on Thursday, April 30 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall. New members welcome.

Parkinson's charity event

THE Bridgend Branch of Parkinsons UK coffee morning on Friday, May 1 from 10am to 12.30pm at the Heronston Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend. Tickets (£4) on the door with tombola and a raffle. All proceeds to go for research into a cure for Parkinsons.

Friendship art

TO celebrate the conception of the Tree of Friendship on May 1, an installation art work will be exhibited on the tree situated

at the Knap Lake and Gardens, Barry on Saturday, May 2 from 11am.

The artwork was constructed during January 2015 with 31 images, one for each consecutive day of the month.

There will also be work exhibited by artists Gina Ward and John Parr of Canonhill Artspace. For further information, see www.glynpooley.com.

Westbourne art exhibition

THIS year, pupils in the junior department of Westbourne School, Penarth will be able to view their works of art at a special summer exhibition in the Pavilion at Penarth Pier.

The children, from nursery upwards, are working hard on their creations and have been inspired by the different styles of local Welsh artists: Gayle Rogers, Helen Elliott, Sheridan Ward, Julie Lyddon and Sarah Richards.

Family and friends of the children are invited to view the exhibition on Friday, May 8. Members of the public are also invited to call in to the Pier Pavilion any time between 12 midday and 5.30pm.

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YOUR *Sunday lunch* GUIDE

Enjoy your time with family & friends

SUNDAY LUNCH IS A GREAT INSTITUTION – AND A SPECIAL TIME FOR FAMILIES

SUNDAY lunch is a revered Welsh (and British) institution – a time in the week nowadays when busy families and friends often decide to

gather at a local restaurant or pub to spend quality time together.

It provides a welcome alternative to the hours of preparing this special meal in the week at home (and avoids the washing up!). It is also an ideal opportunity to catch up on all the latest family news in a relaxing environment.

Now that sunny days have arrived, families may plan outings to a weekend leisure or sporting event, or a trip to the beach – so what better appetiser is there than the traditional roast, vegetarian or fish dish – depending on your preference?

In both the Vale and Bridgend areas, we are blessed with a host of high-quality establishments – some with seating outside as spring turns to summer.

There are often children's facilities available, so the kids can play on the bouncy castle or climbing frame, while mum and dad and their friends relax, knowing their youngsters are safe and fully occupied!

Pubs and restaurants may offer special deals – geared to the number of courses required, while for those who are unable to get out, there are delivery and pick-up services.

No one has to miss out on that well-loved national institution – Sunday lunch!

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Traditional Sunday Roast
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 18 Old Port Road, Wenvoe CF5 6AN
 Wenvoe - 02920 591129

Three Horseshoes MOULTON, Nr BARRY
 01446 710428
 Country Inn www.3horseshoespub.com
Traditional Sunday Lunch
 Served all day from 12 onwards
 Adults £9.25 Children £4.95
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 BEER GARDEN - BOOKING ADVISABLE
 029 2053 0353 / 2053 1700

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 or Wendy Short at the
Glamorgan GEM
 on 01446 774484
 or email jan.irving@tindlenews.co.uk

Vale is in the BBC spotlight in the lead-up to the election



Broadcaster Jamie Owen faces the camera in Barry.



THE Vale was in the spotlight this week in the run-up to the general election, as BBC Wales news teams escaped the studio and took to the road.

Travelling from Barry to Llandudno, they will be visiting and broadcasting live from key constituencies along the way.

The programmes will be taking the temperature among constituents and finding out which topics are being debated.

On Monday (April 20) the tour kicked off with a visit to Barry town centre.

BBC Radio Wales broadcast live from the BBC election tent located in King's Square with *Good Morning Wales* from 6am, followed by *Morning Call* at 9am and *Eleri Sion* from 1pm.

BBC Radio Cymru then took centre stage from 5pm with *Post Prynhawn*. Caesar's Café hosted BBC Wales programmes with Radio Cymru's *Post Cynaf* broadcasting from 8am followed by Dylan Jones at 9am. *Good Evening Wales* on Radio Wales was there from 4pm.

Wales Today's lunch

time and evening programmes and *Newyddion9* were also broadcast live from the town.

Commenting on the tour's visit to Barry, Radio Wales's Eleri Sion said: "I try to champion Barry as often as I can, as I absolutely love living here."

"As I was brought up near Aberaeron, on the Ceredigion coast, my dream was always to live by the sea. My dream came true back in 2007 when we found our home in The Knap area and now I wouldn't want to live anywhere else."

GALLERY EXHIBITION
 FROM May 9-29, local artists Geoff Dawson and Emlyn Hole will hold a joint exhibition of paintings of Welsh scenes.

June 6-26, a rare chance to see quilts and textile pieces hand made in south Wales.

Giles Gallery is at the Old Methodist Church, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, CF72 9EG; open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-5pm (Wednesday and Thursday 10am-8.30pm), 01443 228638 / 07879 035921.

The Highwayman Inn
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 www.sixbellspenmark.co.uk

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 3 Course £14.50
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 www.crossinncowbridge.co.uk

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FROM COWBRIDGE TO LONDON, HOPING NOT TO KEEP THE BRIDE WAITING...

Bridegroom Luke will cycle 193 miles – to get to the church on time!

LUKE ENGLAND and fiancée, Harriet Clarke, have been eagerly looking forward to their big day, but a boozy night out has thrown their wedding plans up in the air!

Luke's mother Marianne England explains: "Having been at a Velindre fundraiser, we got chatting (after a lot of alcohol had been consumed!) and decided how fantastic it would be to be able to cycle to London for his wedding, all in aid of Velindre."

"It's a cause that's very close to our hearts so any opportunity to raise money for the charity is always taken up by our close friends."

"So the groom, family and friends will be cycling nearly 200 miles from Cowbridge to London!"

Luke's father, Nigel England, Julian Hitchcock, Freddie Hitchcock, James Mordecai, Oliver Ladbroke-Davies, Martyn England, Fraser Clarke and Josh Clarke have to make sure the groom is there on time!

At 9am on Wednesday, April 29, the group will

enjoy a hearty breakfast at the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge, before setting off on their challenge four days before the wedding and arrive the day before the ceremony, which takes place on Saturday, May 2 at Fulham Palace.

Their route takes in Day 1: Cowbridge – Bath, Day 2: Bath – Windsor, Day 3: Windsor – Fulham.

Head of fundraising at Velindre, Andrew Morris, said: "The support Velindre has received from the Bearback Riders over the years has been amazing, but this latest exploit is truly incredible."

"Lots of people have crazy ideas after a few drinks, but very few

follow it through – we are really grateful to Luke and Harriet and the group for this wonderful gesture, and hope lots of people will support them at the website: www.justgiving.com/Luke-England1."

Amazingly, the cyclists have already raised sponsorship of £15,000, and more is coming in every day!

Andrew Morris added: "Cancer survival rates have doubled in the last 40 years because of better treatments and earlier detection, helped by Velindre's fundraising campaigns."

People can show their support for the campaign by visiting www.velindrefundraising.com/victoryovercancer.



ABOVE (left to right): Freddie Hitchcock; James Mordecai; Julian Hitchcock; Luke English; Martyn England; Nigel England and Oliver Ladbroke-Davies are among the group preparing for the cycle ride.

Dinas Wolves battle to a draw with United

THE most important game of the season for Dinas Powys Wolves under-12s saw their hardest opposition, Barry Town United, visiting Bryn y Don, and both teams go tooth and nail from the first minute to the last.

Dinas started a lot brighter than recent matches as they set about their jobs in the new system very well. Connor O'Brien was alert early on, managing to thread balls through to Kyle Booker, who drove with purpose and put Cole Saunders in behind.

As the half wore on, the game started to go end to end – with both sets of defence looking very strong, giving little away.

On the 20th minute, Booker found Saunders, who cut in to beat his player and thanks to Hewitson drawing his marker wide, allowed the Dinas striker time to find the top corner with a great strike.

Bayley Harewood and Joe Doughty were getting through so much work in the middle winning a lot of second ball and keeping the pressure on the visitors.

After a quick lesson at the break on how to

cope with balls behind, Jake Lewis, Jake Frost, Zac Fifield and Robson Mallum showed what old-fashioned defending was about, as they attacked and covered each other, allowing Barry half chances at best.

Quest and Pereira both put in a solid shift on the left, tracking their players and stopping the crosses. Kiean was unlucky not to get to a cross at the back post late on.

Barry started to pile on the pressure, pushing bodies forward, the home side defending well and held out until one slip in the final 10 minutes allowed the visiting

midfielder in to cool loop the ball over the advancing Dylan Morris.

Most sides would crumble under pressure but the home team settled back down into their counter-attacking football and Hewitson was dropping in the pocket well, sending his partner Saunders through to keep the pressure off the defence and was unlucky not to restore the lead.

Man-of-the-match was Callum Hewitson, for his discipline and the work that often goes unseen. **LS**

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Caprese - pesto, mozzarella, cherry tomatoes & fresh basil leaves.

Rockpool - topped with a light garlic herb butter, prawns, smoked salmon, fresh rocket.

Americana - tomato herb sauce, topped with salami, chorizo, ham, onions & peppers.

Athens - feta, cherry tomato, black olives, red onions, toasted seeds, drizzled with honey & topped with fresh herb leaves.

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Gwasanaeth gyda gwên - Service with a smile

Students take on college challenge



The team from Cardiff High School, winners of the challenge.

CARDIFF and Vale College invited year-10 pupils from schools across the region to CAVC's Barry campus to test their construction skills.

The pupils, from Cardiff High School, Western Cardiff Federation School and Cowbridge Comprehensive School took part in the college's design and construction challenge. Held during National Science and Engineering Week, the competition was designed to give school pupils a taste of the various tasks involved in the

construction industry and to show them the value of vocational education.

Each school team was given a training session then shown to a 2.5m² square plot. They then selected a project manager and were split into contractors, each with a different task: paving the floor of the plot; designing and creating a tile mosaic; putting up fencing; and making the letters 'CAVC' out of piping as a test of plumbing skills.

The team from Cardiff High School won the challenge, but the judges were extremely impressed by the quality of work and level of commitment from all of the teams.

DISABILITY ARTS CYMRU EXHIBITION

The Vale Council's international gallery, Art Central, is currently hosting Disability Arts Cymru's annual touring exhibition, which includes work by over 40 artists.

This year's annual touring exhibition is dedicated to the life of Mark Anthony Annis, a member of Disability Arts Cymru, who sadly passed away in May 2014. He spent his life combating Asperger's Syndrome, and was devoted to his art practice.

He was greatly influenced by early 20th century artists from the cubist movement and exhibited his

work widely throughout the UK and Europe.

Annis was also one of the 20 artists to exhibit in Art Central Gallery's inaugural exhibition held in 2006.

Among varied works are drawings by artist Gordon Farmer. It wasn't until the year 2000, when he suffered a spinal accident leaving him with limited mobility, that he began to draw.

Farmer said: "My art is a real therapy for me, as by concentrating on drawing I can find a new world with less discomfort."

The exhibition ends this Saturday, April 25. All are welcome and entry is free via the Town Hall, Barry.

Chancellor applauds Vale businesses



Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, last week joined Alun Cairns on a visit to the Vale and they met at Harris Pye in Llandow to discuss investment plans for sites in Barry and the wider Vale.

Mr Cairns said: "I was delighted to have been able to welcome George Osborne to the Vale of Glamorgan. The Chancellor was very impressed with the investment plans for a growing local business."

"This is a great boost for local jobs, with unemployment continuing to fall, and it is wonderful to see a local firm expanding worldwide."

Take a shoe box journey!

THE Samaritan's Purse south-east Wales presents 'Shoe Box Journey - it's not just for Christmas' at Bethel Baptist Church Centre, Pontyclun, on May 9, from 10.15am - 12 noon.

Hear a first-hand account of Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box distribution in Romania from Denise Dickman, who was there in December 2014.

Chris Roberts, Samaritan's Purse assistant OCC director of Field Ministries will also speak. There will be updates on last year's successful Shoe Box campaign in the area (22,499 boxes were sent) plus news of this year's campaign.

Family friendly - all welcome. Contact shoebox4sew@gmail.com or text to Maggs Hibbert 07817 444417. Facebook: OCC South East Wales (Cardiff).

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LOVING WELSH FOOD LINKS UP WITH FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL

COWBRIDGE is set to have its own specialised Welsh food and drink tours, it was announced this week and the launch ties in to the new Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival dates.

A new company – Loving Welsh Food – will launch at Arboreal restaurant in Cowbridge on Tuesday, May 19 just ahead of the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival on May 24 – 25, where it will debut the tours.

Director of Loving Welsh Food, Sian B Roberts, has been a regular at the festival in the

demo marquee and is appearing again at 10am on the Sunday of the festival.

Loving Welsh Food will offer two appetising bite-sized half day experiences in the Vale (1pm – 4.30pm) throughout the festival: 'Welshcakes and Wine' on Sunday and 'Afternoon Tea and Bubbly' on Bank Holiday Monday.

The Welshcakes and Wine tour will delve into the beautiful countryside surrounding Cowbridge and visitors will be treated to a tour of Hendrewennol Fruit Farm (another festival exhibitor) and Meadow View Vineyard, where they will be given the opportunity to sample some of the finest biscotti, ice cream, chocolate, fruit vinegars and sparkling wines in Wales.

The Afternoon Tea and Bubbly tour will include a trip to Llwyn Nwydige Farm and Meadow View Vineyard and visitors will be served up a cup of Welsh tea or coffee and a cake at Mrs O's Pop-up Tea Rooms while taking in the breath-taking views the 78-acre farm has to offer, followed by a glass of Gwin y Fro sparkling wine at the vineyard.

As well as food and drink tours, Loving Welsh Food offers safaris, Welsh cooking workshops, food talks and demonstrations. Tour tickets are

available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/lovingwelshfood.

Director of Loving Welsh Food Sian B Roberts said: "We're very excited about the launch at the fabulous Arboreal restaurant. We'll be inviting guests to find out about our future plans while sampling some of the fantastic Welsh food and drink produced in the Vale of Glamorgan."

"We can't wait to debut the tours at the Cowbridge Food and Drink festival; it's the perfect opportunity to demonstrate our new offering with like-minded people who love Welsh food and drink."

Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival Manager, Polly Wilson, said: "Sian has done an incredible job establishing the new company and the tours and safaris are a great way of showcasing the fine produce that Cowbridge and beyond has to offer."

"We'll be at the Loving Welsh Food launch for people wanting to find out more about the tours and the other fantastic activities we have lined up at this year's festival."

For more details about the food tours visit www.lovingwelshfood.uk/news or email sian@lovingwelshfood.uk.

To find out more about the Cowbridge Food

and Drink Festival contact Polly on 07875 290428, email info@cowbridgefoodanddrink.org. Full details and the complete lineup can be found on the website www.cowbridgefoodanddrink.org.

Tickets for the festival – which cost £5 per day or £8 for the weekend – can be purchased online with a 10 per cent discount on all pre-sale tickets. Children 12 years and under go free.

This year's Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival takes place on Sunday, May 24 – 25.

ESS names Ty Hafan as its charity of choice

ONE of the biggest teacher recruitment agencies in Wales has announced plans to raise funds for Ty Hafan children's hospice, as its charity of the year.

Education Staffing Solutions, which has its head office in Cardiff and branches throughout south Wales and England, kicked off its sponsorship by giving a Ty Hafan family a day out at the Liberty Stadium during Ospreys Rabo 12 match against Zebre in Swansea.

The company is offering prizes for the charity's Hero Friday

fancy dress competition taking place during Children's Hospice Week (May 11-17) month and it is organising a Wales Onesie carnival in June.

"Supporting children is central to everything that we do at Education Staffing Solutions so it was a no-brainer really," said chief executive Kevin Moyes.

"Ty Hafan has only been going for a little over 15 years, but it does a brilliant job in offering care to life-limited children. I have seen that at first hand, because my young nephew and his Mum and Dad have been given so much love and support by the carers at Ty Hafan."

Regional AM hits out at hospital parking chaos

ELUNED PARROTT, Welsh Liberal Democrat AM for south Wales central, has demanded urgent action on what many residents are calling 'traffic and parking chaos' at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff.

"With ever-increasing services being provided at the site, visitors and residents attending outpatient appointments are regularly being

turned away from the hospital site due to existing car parks being unable to cope with the demand," she said.

"The situation has reached a critical point. It is not acceptable for outpatients, many of whom are unable to walk far, to be turned away from the site when they come for what for many are longstanding appointments."

"Far too often, traffic queues on the approach to the car parks delay ambulances trying to access the site, which is extremely worrying."

"What is also concerning is that more people are likely to be directed to the hospital if services such as neonatal care and inpatient children's services are removed from the Royal Glamorgan Hospital in Llantrisant."

"I am calling on the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board to urgently address the issue," she concluded.

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If you would like to provide a home for a feral cat please contact Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre on 01656 724396 or email bridgend@cats.org.uk.

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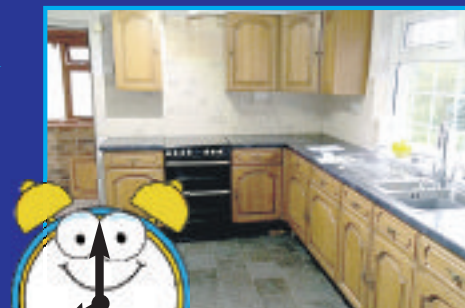
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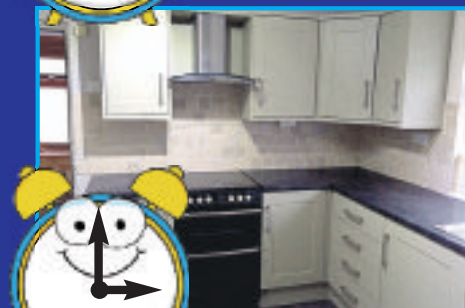
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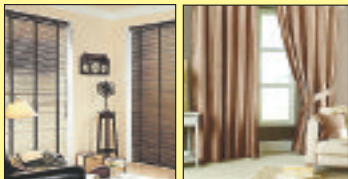
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FRIENDS REUNITED AT THE ROMILLY OLD BOYS' REUNION HELD IN BARRY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
ALEX MORTIMER-BROWN

THERE was a fantastic response to appeals for former pupils to attend Romilly Old Boys' Reunion.

It took place at Cadoxton Conservative Club, Barry, on Friday, April 17.

Organisers were delighted that more than 150 people were able to make a night full of nostalgia and reminiscences.

One of the organisers Alan Kingdon confirmed there will be another reunion in two years time – roll on 2017!

If anyone wants to know the latest on Romilly Old Boys, they should go to: www.romillyoldboysofficialsite.com; or email: romillyoldboys@gmail.com.



BELOW:
Organisers
Alan Kingdon,
Clive Tapscott
and Mal Leyshon.



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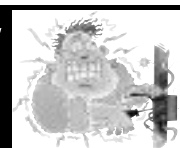
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**THOMAS EDWARD THOMAS
(Deceased)**

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 15 Middlegate Court Cowbridge CF71 7EF, who died on 22/12/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 03/07/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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For a Husband and Father we will never forget.
Now reunited with daughter Joan.
Missed dearly RIP- Wife Helen,
daughter Angela and Grandchildren xx

MAZEY Edmund

Suddenly after a short illness at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, Eddie aged 97 years. Beloved husband of the late Mary, much loved dad of Anne and son-in-law John, also a loved gramps to Kathryn and the boys.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral service in The Chapel of Rest on Monday, April 27 at 2pm, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu if so desired for Orchard House Residential Home c/o the funeral director.

HELLINGER Brian Anthony

Passed away on April 18 at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff. Beloved husband of Margaret, dearly loved father of Craig and daughter-in-law Nicola and much loved by his grandson Antony.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral service on Wednesday, April 29 at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 1pm. Family flowers only.

HARVEY Colin Richard

Peacefully on April 17 at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff. Colin, devoted husband of Anna. Much loved dad to Neil, Claire and Ian, cherished grampy to all his grandchildren.

Colin will be dearly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday, May 6 at 10am. Family flowers only, donations if desired may be made to The RAF Benevolent Fund or The Royal British Legion. All enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service.

MATTHEWS Fay Patricia Margaret (née Probert)

Passed away suddenly but peacefully on April 12, aged 78 years. Devoted wife of Brynley, much loved mum of Gwyneth, Mervyn, Bronwen, Eirwen, Allin and Gareth. Adored nan and great-grandmother to all her grandchildren.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynwydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until her funeral service at St David's Methodist Church, Winston Road, Barry on Thursday, April 30 at 1.45pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery at 2.45pm.

Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

METCALF Daphne Vivienne

Passed away peacefully on 15th April 2015 at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth aged 86 years.

Beloved wife of James (deceased), loving mother of Julian, Nigel and Andrew, mother-in-law of Sonja and Eileen and dearest nana of Gemma, Dylan and Rory.

Funeral service at Efford Crematorium, Plymouth on Tuesday, 28th April at 2pm.

All flowers and enquiries to Walter C. Parson Funeral Directors, The Stables, 32 West Street, Tavistock, PL19 8JY. Tel: 01822 617300

GEORGE

Louise (née Thomas)

Peacefully, after a very short illness, on April 15, at Withybush Hospital, Haverfordwest, Louise, eldest daughter of Percy and Xantippe Thomas, formerly of Splott Farm, St Donats.

Beloved wife of the late Graham George and much loved mother of Carolyn, Penelope and Christopher, and mother-in-law to Alistair and Elizabeth. Cherished Gran of Rhiannon, Simon, Rebecca and Owain, and adored Great Gran of Iona, Zachary, Xanti and Phoebe.

Funeral service will be held on Monday, April 27 at St Andrews Church, Narberth at 11.30am, followed by committal at Parc Gwyn Crematorium, Narberth at 12.15pm.

Family flowers only - donations in memory of Louise can be made payable to British Red Cross and sent to: Ms Penny George, Ysgubor Hen, Honey Hook, Llangwm, Pembrokeshire, SA62 4JR.

Barry Thirds entertain touring team

BARRY THIRD XV entertained the visit of touring side King's Royal Hussars on a fine, dry Saturday afternoon at Reservoir Fields.

After a long hard season it was fitting for manager Frank Greig and Ken Chow be afforded some luxury in team selection as numerous players made themselves available.

Will King made his first appearance for the club in 18 months, while there were also debuts for Nick Hillman on the wing and Connor Woodfin from the bench.

Barry knew they were up against the odds early on when the Hussars demonstrated their superior fitness and intensity with some good strong runs. They were, however, repelled by some brilliant scramble defence, most notably from Rhidian Mephram and flanker Morgan Fogg.

The Hussars utilised their giant No. 8 at the base of the scrum to cause havoc in the Barry defence, but often their lack of match practice showed as the ball was knocked on.

The home side fed off scraps but eventually pieced together some phases.

The line-out began to function with King a colossal figure, and the half-back partnership of Mephram and Chris Bailey began to move things forward.

Following some indiscretion by the visiting side, Barry found themselves in opposition territory for the first time. Playing with tremendous

patience and composure, they were rewarded with the first try when Glyn Pirso crashed over from close range. Hillman failed to add the extras.

Roused from their slumber, the away side responded with a superb break by the back row, which put Barry under enormous pressure. The result was a try from out wide, despite the best

efforts of Kirsch, which went unconverted to level the scores.

With the wind in their sails, both metaphorically and literally speaking, the Hussars came forward again before the break and were rewarded with another close-range try, although there was some doubt as to whether the ball was grounded. The conversion gave them a 12-5 lead at halftime.

Looking to utilise the boot in the second half with the elements in their favour, Barry started well, especially after Ring, Howells-Davies and Morris were sent on for some fresh impetus.

However, it was the visitors who once again showed the greater fitness and also a larger bench, and despite the efforts of Jones, Mephram, Poole and ultimately King, it was another 40 minutes of rearguard action by the green-and-whites.

Barry would hold out for long periods in their own half in the second period but finally succumbed in the last quarter, when the Hussars added three tries near the end to reward their territorial superiority. The final score was 29-5.

The management would like to thank the superb effort by all the players for the game and also the King's Royal Hussars for being superb tourists. We sincerely hope to welcome them again next season.

Barry Third XV will finish their season with a home game against touring side Mold this weekend.

Team: Poole; Kirsch, D Evans, Davies, Hillman; Bailey, Mephram; Pirso, Leighton Jones, Fortt; Deyes, Betts; Fogg, Lloyd Jones ©, King. Replacements: Ring, Howells-Davies, Woodfin, Morris, E Evans, Rees, Adams. Man-of-the-match: Fogg.

KC

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Tasmine Amy Fitzpatrick



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Granshi and all your
Uncles, Aunts &
Cousins. Xxx

OMG LOOK WHO'S 40

Jo Eveleigh

(Née Staples)
on 23 April

Love you lots, Mum,
Dad & all the family xxx



Dianne Brown Happy 60th Birthday



on 25th April

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Mitch. XXX

Happy 50th

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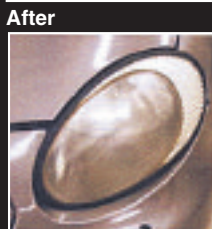
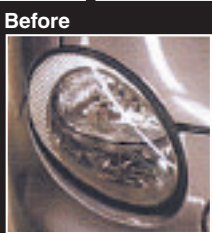
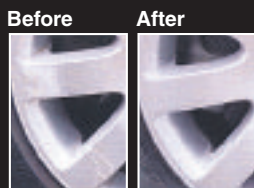
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Gymnasts shine at events



BARRY YMCA gymnasts recently enjoyed success at the South Central Modified Grades event.

Caitlin Meadows and Kelsey Cross both competed in Modified grade 3. Caitlin took the overall title and placed 1st on bars and beam, and 2nd on vault and floor. Kelsey placed 2nd overall, 1st on floor and vault, 2nd on bars and floor.

Hana Davis (7) also competed on the same day in the South Central 7 Years Prep event. She claimed the overall title and also gained another two gold medals on beam and range & conditioning, silver on bars and floor and bronze on vault.

More Barry YMCA gymnasts were in action at the Welsh Grades events. Bria Karim, Erin Gamble and Evie Wong all successfully completed the required skills to pass their Grade 3. All three scored high enough to be awarded a 'highly commended'.

Celyn Powell, Laila-Jade Lang and Sophia Foscolo enjoyed similar success in Grade 4. Celyn and Sophia gained 'highly commended' while Laila-Jade secured a

'pass'. Lily Foscolo was entered for her first grading - grade 6. She demonstrated lovely work to gain a 'highly commended'.

Congratulations to all gymnasts and thank you to coaches Aimee, Anne, Charlotte, Karen and Sophie for their hard work coaching the above girls.

Barry YMCA are looking for future competition hopefuls and will shortly be holding an open day to identify talented children to join their competitive preparation group.

Prospective gymnasts do not need to be able to perform any particular skills, the coaches are looking for children who are strong, flexible and brave enough to try out new things.

If you are interested in your daughter attending this open day please visit the following Facebook page www.facebook.com/ymcabarry and leave your daughters name, date of birth and a contact number. Alternatively contact YMCA Barry on 01446 724001 and leave your details.

KD

The Barry & District men's skittle league

DIVISION 1:

49'ers (P.Solowyk 29) 286, Geest (J.Hawkins 32) 289; Bunker Boys (K.Hewitson 33) 252, Colcot Boys (A.Bumford 28); Ex-Servicemen (H.Hellyar 32) 270, The Hairy Lemons (S.Gully 28) 274; The Hairy Lemons (R.Ryles 27) 273, Colcot Boys (T.Sherrin 25) 239.

DIVISION 2:

Abercete (N.Morgan, S.Miller 27) 273, the Royalists (G.Davies 32) 262; Barry Social (B.Allen 25) 236, Buffs Exiles (B.Griffiths 27) 261; Exiles (M.Bumford 28) 284, Willie Wombles (B.Gratton 34) 300; Posties (M.Gallimore 29) 285, Witchill Poachers (D.Adams 29) 278; Sea View (R.Inledon, B.Wastkins 28) 297, BP

Breakaways (J.Mills 30) 275; Tynny Fliers (G.Hobbs, S.Taylor, P.Snook 29) 288, Abercete (D.Arnold 27) 284; Tynewydd Lads (C.Wright 29) 276, Tynny Fliers (A.Davies 29) 265; Willie Wombles (P.Taylor 32) 285, Tynewydd Lads (D.Sluman 34) 280; Witchill Wizards (D.Casado, D.Britton 32) 338, Road Runners (J.Norris 35) 264.

DIVISION 3:

Billy Whizz (A.O'Brien 29) 250, British Rail 253; C.U.D.(D.Perington 32) 263, KP Monkeynuts (M.Alanui, K.Payne 27) 271; Cannon Balls (G.Currie 32) 304, Billy Whizz (A.O'Brien, S.Coombes 30) 274.

HR



The Barry & District leagues and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:

Railway 6, Rhoose Social 9; West End 9, West End Wanderers 6; Cadoxton Cons 5, Liberals 10; Wyndham Cons 6, Moors Boys 9.

League table: Liberals B 104, Savoy A 96, West End C 79, Cadoxton Cons B 76, Cadoxton Cons Z 76, Rhoose End Wanderers 186, Social C 60, Rhoose Social B 59, Wyndham Cons A 57, Harbour A 56, Penarth Cons B 48, Savoy B 47, Wyndham Cons C 47.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1

Sea View B 6, Cambrian Flyers 1; King William XII 0, Rugby Club 7; Allsorts 2, Rhoose Social B 5; Slammers 6.5, Rhoose Social A 0.5; Runway Club 5, Rhoosters 2; Liberals C 2, West End C 5; Rhoose Social C 7, Barries Boys 0; West End D 6, Liberals A 1.

League table: Sea View B 127, West End C 121.5, Allsorts 106, King William XII 99, West End D 97.5, Slammers 94.5, Rugby Club 94, Barries Boys 89.5, Rhoose Social B 85, Rhoose Social A 84, Rhoosters 81.5, Rhoose Social C 71.5, Liberals A 66, Runway Club 60.5, Cambrian Flyers 60, Liberals C 55.5.

League table: Railway A 93, Market Street C 78, Penarth Cons D 73, Liberators 72, Market Street B 71, Railway B 70, Services Social B 67, Cadoxton Cons A 63, Penarth Cons A 59, Sully Sports A 57, *Railway C 50, West End B 47 (* = points deducted).

All league & cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk

and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

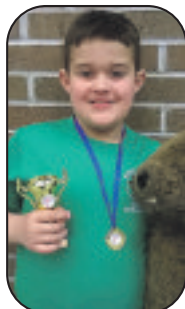
Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club, Celtic Sims competition on April 20:

1st Tony Disley & Phil Felman 70.24%, 2nd Tony Ratcliffe & Patrick Jourdain 60.71%, 3rd Mike Best & Kevin Maddox 57.44%.

LE

The Barry Beavers excel in Carmarthen swimming event



BARRY Beavers went to Carmarthen on April 18 to compete against seven other Welsh clubs, and we came second overall, getting four gold, six silver and one bronze medal out of 21 swimmers.

Even though we were 10 swimmers down, the ones that competed did fantastically well and we are all very proud of them.

The medalists are: gold - Abigail Finch, Callum Savory, Courtney Rogers; junior relay: Tyler Savory, Jesse Rodgers, Courtney Rogers & Abigail Finch. Silver - Ketra Richards (her first gala), Jack Kemp, Louis Davies, Ffion Jones, Tyler Savory, James Jones. Bronze - senior relay: Mark Eveleigh, Gareth Lloyd, Nicky Cushen, James Jones.

The other swimmers taking part, who all missed out in such tight races (under a quarter of a second in many cases) were: Joanna Davies, Shannon Rogers, Philip Daly, Talisha Rogers, Katie Rosser (her first gala), Will Griffiths, Sarah Davies, Layla Rogers. We shouldn't forget our two instructors, Christopher Economides and Sarah Davies; they competed against other instructors from the other clubs taking part so well done.

We look forward to our next event in Ebbw Vale in May. A big thank you to the mums that came with us to support our club.

PF



Athletic cricketers celebrate 125 years



ON Saturday Barry Athletic Cricket Club held its 125th anniversary dinner at The Masonic Hall in Barry, with Phil Steele as the guest speaker.

The night was a great success with over 80 people attending the event for a four course meal, the new and old mixed on a brilliant night.

Dil Samuel, Gary Morgan, Simon Westphal, Geraint Evans, Rhys Davies, John Clogg and Carl Thomas were seven of the Welsh Cup winning side from 1985 in attendance on the night, with Doug Curtin, John Murphy, Alan Storey and Huw Grove, who were also part of the winning side, unable to attend. Other old players from that era who were in attendance on the night were Owain Clements, Tim Clements,

Owain Thomas, Billy Davies, Keith Selway, Paul Adams, Peter Robinson, Kelvin Rosser, Colin Davies and Lindsay Bennett.

The dinner was compared by vice chairman Steve Jones, with speeches from first team captain John Gee, chairman Peter Hellyar and a toast by Glan Williams, with Phil Steele having the audience in laughter with his stories of a 20 plus year career with the BBC.

The night was a great success and the club have more planned for the year.

This Saturday Barry Athletic are at home to Blackwood at the Athletic Ground with a 1pm start; on Sunday a select side will play Barry West End, also a 1pm start.

MR

NO LONGER BOOM TIME FOR POINTS

THE GEM's Brian Lee, who first reported on the Welsh hunting scene back in 1966, takes another look through his many press cuttings scrap books and discovers a time when the hunts received a lot more entries than they do today.

ON February 9, 1985, under the heading Boom Time For Racing, I wrote: 'Point-To-Point racing has never been so popular. Despite the firm ground for most of last season, there were over 12,000 runners at meetings up and down the country. Between February 23 and May 18, 18 meetings are due to be held in the south and west Wales areas.'

Well this season, only a total of 14 hunts applied for fixtures in these two areas and one of these had to be abandoned owing to the course being waterlogged.

The number of entries received so far this season is certainly down on past years. The Banwen Miners, for instance, had a whopping 43 entries for their men's open race and 33 entries for their adjacent hunt's race back in 1985.

That was the year I

tipped in the press *Hallo Dandy* to win the Grand National and under the heading 'Hywel Continues Welsh Tradition' I wrote: 'Cardigan-born Hywel Davies is the second successive jump jockey from Wales to win the Grand National, following Neale Doughty on *Hallo Dandy* last year.'

(Incidentally, Neale Doughty, a former member of the Llangenor Hunt Pony Club, came from Kenfig Hill.)

Hywel's victory has given Welsh Hunt racing a tremendous boost as before he joined the paid ranks he regularly took part in Welsh point-to-point races. I recall seeing him at his brilliant best at Lydstep some years ago when the horse he was riding, *Heather's Son*, was brought to a standstill halfway through the race when another horse fell in front of him. Somehow or other he got his mount going again, and to the surprise of everyone on the course, managed to get up in the last 50 yards to pip the favourite.

Other Welsh point-to-pointers Hywel was associated with were *Romany Park* and *Knight's Queen*.

However, in his very last ride in a Welsh point-to-point, before he turned professional, he was auspiciously unseated at the Llangenor Hunt.

Hywel, who was given the kiss of life after being thrown at Doncaster a couple of seasons ago, is the younger brother of Geraint Davies, a National Hunt jockey of note before injuries forced him to retire.

Hywel, who has written himself into the racing history books, follows the tradition of other Welshmen like Jack Anthony, Fred Rees, Evan Williams, Mervyn Jones, Fulke Walwyn and Neale Doughty, who have all been successful in the world's greatest steeplechase.

I also reported that at the Gelligaer point-to-point: 'Scott Perry, aged 20, chalked up his first win when winning the men's open race on Milton Bradley's *Santoss*.' Sadly, Scot was later killed in a farming accident if my memory serves me right.

The ladies' open race at this meeting was won by Shan Morgan aboard *Luchello* and Brian Price recorded a double on *Team* and *Captain Rondo*.

Beth Llewellyn from Bargoed rode her first winner on *Ballytask* in the hunt race and Joe Price took the adjacent hunt's race on his 14-year-old ex-chaser *Hobo*.

Under the heading 'Alison First' I recorded that: 'Alison Kenniford, a bank clerk from Ystrad Mynach, had her first ride in a point-to-point at the Talybont yesterday and landed the members' race, despite falling at the eighth fence.'

'Alison remounted her bay gelding *Grange Lad*, who caught the favourite *Riverside OK*, who had earlier unseated his rider

Andrew James at the second fence, to win by six lengths.' While at the Curragh: 'The men's open race went to *Yellow Jersey*, trained at Bridgend by his owner Geoffrey Hamer, and ridden by Paul Hamer the owner's younger brother.'

There was a record entry of 173 horses for the Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechase this year and I reported: 'Cyril Liley's *Ocean Boy*, ridden by John Thomas, took the first division of the maiden, officially by half-a-length. But from the bank the margin seemed a lot closer. There were those who thought *Ardican* had won. Leading riders John Llewellyn and Tim Rooney landed doubles. Llewellyn scored with *Suiker Bous* and *Master Straight* and Rooney won on *Time Breaker* and *Savage Sally*.'

For the first time in 15 years, an evening point-to-point meeting was held in Wales when the Tredegar Farmers held their meeting in Cwmbran and Carol Lee, wife of National Hunt trainer Richard Lee, chalked up her sixth win of the season on *Maetta Crescent*, who beat *Debt Follower* in an exciting finish.

St Athan's John Thomas took the maiden race on *Wonder Dream*.

You can e-mail your point-to-point or horse racing stories and pictures to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone on 02920 736438.

Wanderers take spoils of victory

IN their second pre-season friendly, Sully Centurions narrowly lost to neighbours Barry Wanderers, after a game that had its fair share of interesting moments!

Batting first, Sully started brightly as openers Tom Davies and Nathan Baker put on 37 for the first wicket, when Baker was caught for 23 off the bowling of Cole.

Tom was then joined by new boy Santos who also looked in good touch before he too was caught for 33.

Davies and Adam Sylvester (34) took the score along to 130 when Davies was bowled for 47. The scoring rate slowed down considerably after the halfway mark, thanks to some accurate bowling from Sandhu, Hassett and Downey.

Lloyd Bruce's 29, a quick cameo of 13 from Jake Griffith and 15 at the death from the returning Peter Thomas gave the score some respectability. Centurions were

eventually all out for 217.

Wanderers' opening pair of Hannerford and Blundell never put a foot wrong as they piled on the runs. They had put on 179 for the first wicket when Hannerford was stumped by stand-in wicketkeeper Jake Griffith (on for the injured Baker) off the bowling of Bruce for a marvellous 113.

The next wicket fell only one run later as Santos bowled Croft for a duck. With Baker off injured and the early exits of Ellis and Sylvester, Centurions finished the match with only eight players on the field and the Wanderers' batsmen found the gaps in the field with increasing regularity.

However, the match went down to the last over when Blundell, who carried his bat for 80, hit the winning runs with two balls to spare. Wanderers fully deserved the victory and Centurions now look forward to the return match later in the season.

Sully Centurions 217 all out; Barry Wanderers 218 for 2.

MF

Brynhill ladies get all arty!



On April 7, Brynhill ladies welcomed the artistic talents of Vaughan Cummins with a fantastic lesson in how to turn a blank canvas into a work of art.

In only two hours, using acrylic paint and various sizes of palette knives, he produced an amazing landscape of Snowdonia. It was a remarkable evening watching his masterpiece take shape, and all in absolute silence.

The latest competition

results are: March 31, Easter Egg winner Rose Pitman, 18pts, runner-up Jan Tattersell, 16pts; April 7, Rabbits and Tigers, winners Glynis Gould and Helena Combes 79.5.net; runners-up Di Tapscott and Linda Hewlett, 81 net; April 14, Jo Whitehouse Cup, winner Gemma Evans, 37pts, runner-up Jo Kirkpatrick 35pts; Gran's Trophy, winner Jo Kirkpatrick 35pts over the back 9 from Linda Hewlett.

CH

The Vale Cup finals are in full swing

THE Vale of Glamorgan Association Football League started the end of season finals on Friday, April 8, with the Dockers Cup.

The Division 2 League Cup final saw Barry Belgrade FC take on Vale United FC. After letting in the first goal, Barry Belgrade came back with three unanswered goals to take the trophy, final score Barry Belgrade 3, Vale United FC 1.

On Sunday, April 10, Division 1 took centre stage with Tynewydd FC playing VIFC. As the league leaders,

Two Jordan Mortimer goals in the second half put one hand on the cup, but a late surge by Tynewydd FC saw Dale Miller pull one back. With only seconds remaining a heavy tackle from Gareth Union saw a red card being issued, leaving Tynewydd FC with 10 men but the whistle went soon after. Final score Tynewydd FC 1, VIFC 2.

The junior section

started their finals on Thursday, April 16, with the Year 11 Cup, the Classic Sportswear Trophy. Holton Road FC took on Sully Sports Reds in a very close match; so close that after 80 minutes plus 20 minutes extra time, the score remained 0-0.

This meant the match was to be decided on penalties. Sully Sports started and scored two and missed their third but then scored their fourth. Holton Road got their first three in and had their fourth saved.

The fifth penalties for each team were scored, even a retaken Holton Road one as it was taken and saved before the referee blew his whistle! Sudden death then saw Sully Sports have their sixth penalty saved and Holton Road then scored to lift the Classic Sportswear Trophy.

The following night, Barry Town United FC took on Sully Sports Blues in the Year 7 final for the Brian Riseborough Cup.

Three goals from Louis Harding, Macauley Marks and

Cian Anderson was enough to see Barry Town United win the trophy, final score Barry Town United FC 3, Sully Sports Blues 0.

Lastly on Sunday, April 19, in the morning the Harry Gratton Trophy was up for grabs in the Year 9 final between Barry Town United FC and Cogan Coronation FC.

A close game saw the game decided in the first half. A goal by Brooklyn McCabe saw Barry Town United FC take the lead but Cogan replied before halftime with goals from Luke Warcow and Arron Archer. Early in the second half, Barry

Town United FC saw their goalkeeper sent off but no further goals were scored. Final score Barry Town United FC 1, Cogan Coronation 2.

The last Senior League Cup took place in the afternoon with Cardiff Airport FC taking on Cowbridge Town FC in the ASRS Cup; a replay of last year's Barry Cup final.

However, this year saw Cardiff Airport manage to gain a measure of revenge. Jermaine Martin scored two first half goals to give Cardiff Airport FC the lead by halftime and a third goal - in the form of an own goal -

followed in the second to secure the ASRS Cup for Cardiff Airport FC. Final score Cardiff Airport 3, Cowbridge Town FC 0.

The finals continue this week with Cogan Coronation playing Sully Sports Reds in the Year 8 Cup Final on Friday, April 24, kick off 6.15pm. Then Sunday sees the Year 10 final between Holton Road FC and Sully Sports FC at 10.15am before the last final, the Barry Cup between Vale United FC and VIFC, kick off 2.15pm.

MD

SPORTS PROJECTS ARE PROSPERING IN THE LOCAL AREA

A doorstep sport project aimed at getting young people more active, more often in their own communities is thriving in the Barry area.

Delivered by the Vale Council's Sports Development team and Barry Communities First, the project provides activities "on the doorstep" for young people aged nine to 16 years who want to take part in sport.

The project was recently shortlisted for Street Games New Project of the Year at the UK awards ceremony, recognising the new activities that have been introduced as well as the

new partnerships that have been developed.

There was further success when the Friday Night Football project led by police community supports officers and dedicated local volunteers Scott Nelson and David Chambers won the Newydd five-a-side football tournament, competing against teams from across south Wales.

With warmer weather on the way, there are a number of outdoor activities taking place.

Multi-sport events will be available at Pencoeetre Park, Gibbonsdown on Mondays from 4.30pm to 5.30pm, Victoria Park, Cadroxton on Mondays from 5.45pm to 6.45pm, Central Park every Thursday led by Elim

cycling skills. Sessions are led by qualified leaders and volunteers and are aimed at young people aged nine or over.

All sessions are currently free of charge and as there is no booking needed any young people interested in attending sessions can simply turn up.

These projects are delivered as part of the Vale Sport plan with the aim of increasing participation in sport and physical activity. The project contributes towards the Council's aim of reducing health inequalities and ensuring residents are able to access the necessary services, information and advice to improve their wellbeing and quality of life.

A number of other partners are also involved in the delivery of the project including Vale Volunteer Bureau, Police Community Support Officers, Elim Elevate, World at Play and Newydd.

For further information, contact Sports Development Officer Rachel Shepherd on 07730 749485, Adele Twomey of Barry

Communities First on 01446 709825, or visit www.barrystreetgames.org.

Free taster sessions for females

SPORTS clubs within the Vale hosted free taster sessions and open days throughout March for local women and girls.

Thirteen clubs in the local area signed up to take part in the event to encourage more women and girls to become physically active. Each of the clubs provided open days or taster sessions for free to promote activities on offer to women and girls in the Vale.

As a result, over 150 women and girls accessed sports activities at the participating clubs, with

Windsor Tennis Club leading the way and attracting over 100 female participants. Other successful clubs included Penarth Rowing Club and Vale Women and Girls Football Club.

Ben Williams, AYP Officer for the Vale, said: "This was a great opportunity for local clubs to promote the many sports activities that take place in the local area. We wanted to show what's available for women and girls and are pleased the #MarchOnGirls campaign was a success."

Rob Wedlake, tennis coach at Windsor Tennis Club, said: "We

were delighted with the take-up and feedback from the #MarchOnGirls campaign which helped us to attract a raft of new players to our club at an annual open day. More than 250 children, parents and adult tennis players visited us for a variety of coaching and social tennis activities, of which at least half were female. As a result we will now be running ladies-only 'Tennis Tuesday' sessions from May 5, and offering further girls and ladies taster sessions during the Wimbledon fortnight."

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Anticipation builds ahead of point-to-point highlights

The Dunraven Bowl
BRIDGEND builder Roger Willcox and engineering company boss Bill Corrigan, joint owners of *Patrickton Boru*, recent winner of the men's open race at the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt Point-To-Point, are hoping that their eight-year-old bay gelding, which finished fourth in the Dunraven Bowl Novices' Hunter Chase at Chepstow Racecourse last year, will be first past the post this time on Friday (April 24).

A number of horses owned and trained in the Vale have qualified for the race which is the highlight for many of the Welsh point-to-point season. The race's sponsor David Brace OBE has yet to win it

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

although he has had several horses which have been placed in the event over the years.

Last year's race saw the gambled on *Gale Force Oscar*, which was qualified with the Llangeinor Hunt, run out a very easy winner under Welsh champion rider John Mathias. The Brecon and Talybont horse *Supreme Regime* was third.

Llanharan's Evan David, who has been in good form this season, is expected to be aboard *Patrickton Boru*. Evan, who rides out for Aberthir trainer Tim Vaughan, is the younger brother of Tom David who is assistant trainer to Zara Phillips.

Race's history

WHEN the Dunraven Bowl was first held in 1996, it was won by *Miss Millbrook*, which gave Evan Williams the first of his three wins in the race. Evan, a former national champion point-to-point rider and now a leading Welsh trainer, also

won on *Cherry Gold* in 2003 and 2004 but when *Cherry Gold* won for a third time in 2005, Jason 'Awesome' Cook was in the saddle.

Another national champion point-to-point rider to win this prestigious race, only this time a female, was Pip Jones, who scored on *Final Pride* in 1997, while the only other female to win is Welsh champion Fiona Wilson, who won on the rank outsider *Saffron Moss* the following year, 1998.

Chepstow and Hereford course specialist *Mr Dow Jones* won under west Wales' Dai Jones in 1999. Keith Pritchard's prolific point-to-point *Cannon Bridge* silenced those critics who said it couldn't jump regulation fences when landing the 2006 renewal and Welsh champion point-to-point rider Rhys Hughes was successful on *Kilbreena* (2007) and *Bob Bites Back* (2009).

Rhys Flint was successful in 2008 on *Paul* and

Myfanwy Miles's *Lady Myfanwy*, one of Wales' most prolific point-to-pointers.

David Lovell's eight-year-old *Master Charm*, given a good ride by Tom David, beat *Minsgill Mans* in an exciting finish in 2010. The Lovell family dedicated their win to the late bookmaker John Lovell who was responsible for introducing computerised betting to the UK and who had been a great supporter of point-to-point racing and Chepstow racecourse.

In 2011, Pembrokeshire's Eric Clough's *Parthian Prince*, partnered by Paul Tolman, was later awarded the race after *Bob's Law*, which had finished first past the post, was subsequently disqualified by the BHA Disciplinary Panel.

In 2013, Matthew Barber, a 5lb claimer, riding the seven-year-old bay gelding *Hawkeye Native*, trained by his brother Marc at Narbeth, came home nine lengths ahead of Paul and Myfanwy Miles' *Findlay's Find* who recently notched-up his 22nd win.

Last year, Lee Power's nine-year-old brown gelding *Gale Force Oscar*, ridden by Welsh champion point-to-point rider John Mathias from Tenby, landed a big gamble when coming home 20 lengths ahead of *Supreme Regime*, with *Doc Wells* a further four lengths away in third place. *Gale Force Oscar* must surely go down in the records as one of the easiest winners of the Dunraven Bowl, the race that all Welsh owners, riders and trainers want to win.

News from the Barrivale Bridge Club

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for April 14 are as follows:

The session coincided with the AGM for Barrivale and a celebration of the club's 28th birthday.

Birthday team results were as follows: First Team 2 - Peter Millar, Mick Green, Helen Jordan, Judith Owen and Noelle Bond with 49 IMPS; second Team 6 - Mike Close, Tim Barsby, Ann Macdougall and Sean Macdougall with 43 IMPS; third Team 3 - Huw Thomas, Celia Thomas, Tom Kendrick and Dave Thomas with 2 IMPS.

As from Friday, May 1, it is Barrivale Bridge Club's intention to hold regular morning sessions, commencing at 9.45am and finishing at 12.30pm. These will be assisted bridge sessions primarily for beginners, people wishing to return to the game and those who would like to improve their game.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm or Friday, May 1 at 9.45am.

DR

THE BARRY AND DISTRICT LADIES SKITTLE LEAGUE

LATEST results for week commencing March 23:

Space Finders (K Jackson 34) 338, Allsorts (H Bunting 39) 323; Cigar Ladies (K Richard 3) 239, Coppers (J Hartnell 35) 299; Bakers Dozen (A Boauy 28) 255, SV Gals (R Sowoll 30) 266; Family and Friends (M Ogston 29) 253, Barry Stars (T Johnson 23) 210; Family Affair (C Grubb 31) 265, Castaways (D Jones 26) 241; Pila Palas (A Williams 33) 314, Special Angels (T Grisdale 34) 309; Red Admiral (M Gee 29) 272, Colcot Ladies (P Johnson 32) 276.

Second division: Castle Bandits (E Evans 27) 240, Strikers (L Goodwin 24) 230; Cad Con Fillies (J Rogers, L Old 23) 233, Roller Coasters (J Ebbs 24) 217; Breakaways (N Bichard, C Smith,

J Davykins 30) 323, Witchill Widows (L Young 30) 284; Starlights (I Oliver 27) 249, Divas (S Gouvier 25) 147; Witchill Weebies (S Dobbinson 34) 331, After Eights (M Hellyar 39) 314; S V Lights (B Kenefick 26) 247, Clickies (K Davidson 24) 241; Bobby's Girls (A Seldon 29) 273, Vixens (L Gray 26) 241.

Third division: Lil's Devils (T Evans 25) 233, Rhosoe Ravers (J Bowsher, G Shellem 24) 220; Ecetetera (M Jones 27) 248, Jolly Dollies (V Jackson 34) 261; Merry Makers (H Davies 25) 226, Airways Angels (E Lewis, M Carpenter, Bec Gibbs, L Taylor 21) 213; Friends and Neighbours (R Page 31) 247, Westenders (S Woodfield, C Gee 27) 247; Persuaders (K Phillips 29) 230, Hill Billies (E Anzani, G

Moorcroft 23) 198; Dolly Mixtures (J Preece, E Bryan 25) 235, Witchill Wanderers (S Reynolds 26) 181; SV Ladies (K Lacny 30) 255, Rugby Triers (D Sherrin 30) 268.

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Semi-final heartbreak for Barry in the Cup

BARRY travelled to the capital to face St Peters in the semi-final of the East District Cup on a crisp Tuesday night last week.

With numerous players, including top try-scorer Brad White unavailable for various reasons, head coach Jon Bryant and forwards coach Liam Scott had to juggle their resources, handing a start to Wayne Jones after he impressed with the 2nd XV on the weekend, while there was also a 1st XV debut for Lloyd Dutton from the bench.

Despite Barry performing admirably in their league this season, their opponents were from a division higher and they certainly started the match the better side as they probed an uncertain Barry defence.

Following a sharp exchange in midfield, the defensive line was broken and the speedy St Peters winger scored in the corner for an unconverted try with barely minutes gone.

With supporters fearing the worst, Barry rolled up their sleeves and put together some phases of their own in an attempt to get back in the game.

Following good drives from Tanner,



ABOVE and RIGHT: Barry fought bravely but were denied in the semi-final of the East District Cup.

PICTURES BY HOWARD POOLE

Evans and Vidal, Einar Scott got Barry on the scoresheet with a well-struck penalty.

St Peters became increasingly frustrated with the lack of possession and this caused them to concede another kickable penalty, which Scott duly obliged with to give Barry the lead.

Rattled, the side from Division 2 began to make uncharacteristic errors as Barry's confidence grew.

Following a high tackle, the referee had no option but to send the offending player to the bin, with Scott's boot increasing Barry's lead.

Barry fully took advantage of their numerical superiority when following a break from midfield, the ball was recycled to find Danny Ryan who dived through to score. Scott expertly converted from the touchline to give Barry a 16-5 lead.

With St Peters now back to 15, they regained their composure and possession, and they soon found themselves back in the game with an unconverted try from their dangerous winger.

It was Barry who were rattled as halftime loomed. After a kickable penalty



opportunity was converted, smart play from the talented St Peters backs saw their winger complete his hat-trick to give them an 18-15 lead at the interval.

The Barry supporters hoped that their team would rally in the second half, as they have done so often in the campaign, but it was not to be as their opponents showed far too much experience and know-how.

With the Cardiff side clearly superior in both scrum and line-out, the Barry defence was put under tremendous pressure and early in the second half they conceded another try out wide.

Worse was to come as replacement scrum-half Tom Lee was sin-binned, and St Peters fully took advantage to ram home their advantage in those 10 minutes.

Barry tried their utmost in the dying minutes for one final score, but it was not to be and in the end they lost to the better side on the night.

Despite the defeat, the effort by the players was commendable and the team will now be looking to finish strongly in their league campaign.

Team: T Scott, Ryan, Perry, Provis, W Jones; E Scott, Gallivan; Evans, Vidal, Hollister; Tanner ©, Giddings; C Scott, O Poole, H Jones. **Replacements:** Pirso, Sullivan, Dutton, Miles, Lee, Mephram, T Poole. **Man of the match:** Vidal.

AC

KC



Tae Kwon Do students impress in Welsh Open

CONTINUING on from the success of ICO Welsh Open the Cadroxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do attended the World Organization of Martial Arts Athletes (WOMAA) Welsh Open held in Western Leisure Centre, Cardiff.

First up were the beginners patterns where we had Charlie Rogers and Leland Butler competing; Charlie took 1st place with Leland 3rd.

Next were the intermediate section with Cameron Evans taking 1st and Ethan Andrus in the girls 8 to 9 years advanced and Lucia Cunningham took 2nd in the girls 10 to 11 advanced. In the boys 8

Blackley in 3rd place.

Next were the boys Intermediate Weapon, Cameron Evans taking 1st and Ethan Andrus 2nd place, with, yet again, a clean sweep in the Advanced Weapons with Cody Jacobsen 1st, Jake Quigley 2nd and Joel Wells 3rd.

Once the patterns were over the Point Sparring categories got underway, Leland Butler coming away with 1st place in the mixed boys and girls under-7 beginners.

Thea Cunningham took 3rd place in the under 7 year olds mixed advanced while Cameron Evans took 1st place in the boys intermediate 8 to 9 year olds. Jessie Blackley took 1st place in the girls 8 to 9 years advanced and Lucia Cunningham took 2nd in the girls 10 to 11 advanced. In the boys 8

to 9 advanced Cody Jacobsen came away with 3rd place, meanwhile in the boys advanced 10 to 11 year olds Cian Allen was taking 1st place.

Next, and the last events of the day, were the Continuous Sparring categories. Thea Cunningham took 3rd place in the mixed boys and girls under 7 years advanced.

Leland Butler came away with a credible 3rd place in the mixed boys and girls under 7 years beginners. In the boys advanced 8 to 9 year old Joel Wells took 2nd with Cody Jacobsen the 3rd place.

In the girls advanced 10 to 11 year olds, Lucia Cunningham took 2nd while in the girls advanced 8 to 9 year olds

Jessica Blackley took 1st place.

Cian Allen, competing in the boys advanced 10 to 11 year olds, came away with a hard fought 3rd place. Star of the competition was Cameron Evans, taking his fourth first place of the day in the boys intermediate 8 to 9 year olds.

Pictured above are Jake Quigley, Lucia Cunningham, Joel Wells, Cian Allen, Cameron Evans, Ethan Andrus, Thea Cunningham, Leland Butler, Jessica Blackley, Cody Jacobsen, Maddison Allen & Charlie Rogers.

For further information phone (01446) 406372 or see www.cadoxontae.com

RT

United lift the title trophy this weekend

BARRY Town United will lift the league championship trophy at Jenner Park for the first time in 12 years this Saturday; and all are invited for what is set to be a celebratory end to another milestone season.

A jovial crowd is expected to cheer on the Town in their final Welsh League Division Two fixture against Llanwrn AFC (2.30pm kick-off).

After a difficult decade (to put it mildly), the Jenner Park club has come into its own as a fan-owned community entity and is now making strides with a host of homegrown talents at the forefront of its success.

When Adebayo Akinfenwa and his Town teammates hoisted their last Welsh Premier title aloft in 2003, the likes of Lee Baldock, Lewis Cosslett, James Dixon, Ryan Evans, Paul Morgan and others were mere schoolchildren.

However, 12 years on, these youngsters who grew up playing football in and around the Barry area

have helped secure an unprecedented double promotion for their hometown club; and Saturday's trophy presentation will be a fine reward for their efforts.

For manager Gavin Chesterfield, one suspects it will be business as usual, with victory or a draw lifting his side above the 70-point threshold in this, the season swansong.

However, visitors Llanwrn will surely be eager to gatecrash the party, particularly after Barry pipped the Newport outfit to the Division Three title on the closing day of last season.

Supporters are encouraged to arrive early and make an afternoon of it, with the Gladstone Road and Barry Road turnstiles open from 2pm and match entry at £5, with concessions available.

Schools in Barry and the Vale interested in complimentary tickets for this Saturday's match are encouraged to contact club secretary David Cole on 07557 665847 with their requirements or send a message via www.twitter.com/BarryTownUnited.

AC

KC

The Barry Darts League round-up

IN the fixtures on April 10, the biggest win of the week went to the Dockers who had a comfortable 20-1 win away to the Hell Raisers.

The Poachers retained the top spot with a hard fought 13-8 win over the Plastics, while the Cwm Talwg had a narrow 11-10 victory away to the Billy Ghosts, with Simon Nettleship hitting a 180 on the night.

The BFC Allsorts had a comfortable 15-6 win over the Mariners, while the Park Weasels overcame the Loungers 16-5. In the final game of the week the

Runways beat the Wanderers 14-7.

In this week's games, the Poachers had an impressive 14-7 away win over the Dockers; Mark Jackson hit a 116 out during the match. The Billy Ghosts are in second place after a 13-8 away win over the Raiders.

The BFC Allsorts lie in fourth position despite losing 12-9 away to the Plastics while a player short, The Mariners beat the Park Weasels 12-9, while the Runways were 14-7 winners away to the Loungers. The Tynnewydd had a 14-7 win over the Hell Raisers to complete the week's fixtures.

RL

Romilly 'Open Day' a success

BARRY Romilly men and ladies held their joint open day last Saturday and were treated to a superb sunny day.

Over 50 players turned up to see men's president Tony Freeman ask the ladies' president Dilys Liscombe to open the green by bowling the first woods of the 2015 season.

This was followed by a game played between six mixed rinks over 12 ends on a green once again looking in excellent condition and bowling better than at the start of last season.

The Romilly men had already played and won a couple of friendly games away to Penarth

Rectory Road and Llantwit Major, winning both games. The first competitive game is this coming Saturday with Romilly's 'A' team playing away to Millwood 'A' in the S.V.L.A Cup with Romilly hoping to retain the trophy once again.

Club captain Mel Newman has chosen multiple sclerosis as his charity for this year and a horse race night was held on Saturday, April 4, at the clubhouse which was well supported and a total of £477 was raised for this worthwhile charity, which will hopefully be topped up with other events during the year.

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Below-par Barry continue their push for promotion

WITH every match vital in the push for promotion, Barry needed to be at their best against bogey side Llandaff in Cardiff last Saturday.

Unfortunately this was not the case, and the 31-10 scoreline in Barry's favour does not reflect what happened in those 80 minutes.

For the first 20 minutes of the game the Barry game was littered with mistakes and with a lively home side eager to keep the ball in play, the visitors were called on to defend for most of that period. In fact the home team could well have been in front with a little more accuracy.

Barry finally managed to get some meaningful possession and reached the opposition 22 for the first time and launched some offence of their

own which forced the home side to have to defend.

Following a forward drive Barry nearly opened the scoring but were held short of the line. Barry were to lose Oaten in the play that followed with replacement Dutton entering the fray.

Now forced to defend, the home side began to concede penalties and from a quickly taken one Scott crashed over in the corner to score and add the extras to give the visitors a seven point lead.

At a stage when Barry had the upper hand and plenty of possession further scores were expected by the away supporters, but regrettably due to a mixture of greed and white line fever this was not to be, as at least four try scoring chances were missed.

The half which should

have seen Barry with a bonus point in the bag, ended with them just one score ahead and the game still to be won.

Buoyed by having held out in the first 40 minutes Llandaff opened the second full of confidence, and it didn't take long for them to square the match.

A quickly taken penalty some 40 yards out saw the scrum half cross without a finger being laid on him and with the conversion successful the game was level.

Worse was to come with Barry, unable to get set piece possession from either scrum or lineout, struggling to see the ball at all and it was no surprise when their dominance in all facets of play saw the home side take the lead through a penalty. In reality things could have been worse but for some sound defending by the

visitors.

Barry were indeed fortunate to be only three points down when the game entered its final quarter, with it difficult to see where their next score was coming from if they continued to be second best.

Somehow, and perhaps this shows the character of the squad, a mistake by the home defence from the kick off gave Barry possession and the recycled ball was spread wide for Jones to score wide out with the conversion missed.

This score seemed to put new life into Barry and with the home side appearing to tire, space began to appear in all areas, and as the ball was spread wide White was on hand to take the final pass to cross for a try which was converted to give them a nine point lead.

Llandaff had not given up and as Barry continued to lose their set piece the defence had to be at its best. However it was Barry who finished the stronger and after being held just short of the line, Evans crashed over from the resulting lineout and Barry finally

got the bonus point so crucial at this stage of the season.

Now in total control and camped on the home line Barry's final try was scored by Perry to see the game end with a 31-10 victory, a result they will be pleased to take but mindful of what's to come over the next three weeks and the need to improve on this showing.

This Saturday is Barry's own 'Judgement Day' as they entertain Old Illydians, one place below them in the league, in the first of two meetings between the sides over the next fortnight, which will have a huge bearing on the end of season table. A big home support would be good to see with the game kicking off at 2.30pm.

A reminder that tickets are going fast for the presentation dinner dance on July 17 at the Memorial Hall. A few tables are still available and interested parties should contact Andy Jamieson on 01446 411737 or email andyjam68@yahoo.co.uk for information.

AJ

Schools net top awards in SEN football tournament

TEN south Wales schools took part in a special educational needs football tournament at Cogan Recreation Ground, with Ysgol Bryn Castell and Greenhill Special School coming out on top.

The tournament, organised by Headlands School in Penarth, was broken down into two age groups with Headlands, Ysgol Hen Felin, Ysgol Bryn Castell, Maesgwyn, and a joint Talocher and Queenswood team making up the 11-a-side Premiership Table.

There were a number of competitive matches which saw a good level of skill among the players taking part, and after some thrilling and closely fought matches Ysgol Bryn Castell emerged as winners.

Headlands School, Heronsbridge School, Greenhill, Pen y Bryn,

and Ysgol Ty Coch made up the teams in the seven-a-side league. Greenhill played consistently well throughout which saw them top the league and become champions.

All the schools that entered the tournament are linked to the South Wales Special Schools Consortium, made up of teachers from SEN schools across south Wales.

Kieran Evans, a teacher at Headlands School, said: "I would like to thank all schools that attended the second annual Headlands football tournament, and further congratulate Ysgol Bryn Castell and Greenhill School for winning the Premiership and Championships Tournaments respectively."

For more information about SEN School Sport in the Vale contact Simon Jones, Disability Sport Officer for the Vale of Glamorgan Council on 01446 704728 or email sjones@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Defeat for Dinas is not as damaging as it might have been

THIS 2-0 defeat against Aberbarge Buds was not as damaging as it might have been for Dinas with all five of the bottom clubs in Division 2 either losing or not having a fixture, but it does bring added significance to their next fixtures.

Despite the scoreline it was only a first half penalty that separated the two sides until the last minute of the game when the hosts added a second goal from a corner.

In windy conditions it was Dinas who started on the front foot, a Nicky Bruce free kick finding King Junior Mwedzo but he was crowded out before he could get a sight of goal.

The visitors then won two successive corners; the first was cleared by a defender at the near post but the second, forced by some good work by Luke Swaffield, produced a goalmouth scramble but the ball eventually went out for a goal kick.

Dinas were more than holding their own but on the 15 minute mark the Buds' prolific striker Tom McCarthy had a half chance although his effort sailed over James Curtin's crossbar, and it was McCarthy again who broke through the Dinas defence; this time his effort was just the wrong side of Curtin's left post.

However, the Buds were now into their rhythm and when Leon Young broke through on goal he was pulled back by Steve Provis, the referee pointing to the penalty spot where McCarthy sent Curtin the wrong way to open the scoring on 22 minutes.

Dinas began to utilise Provis' long throw in, finding Nathan Donnelly on several occasions. Donnelly then won a corner, taken by Bruce, which found Ben Ah-Mun who spun and got a shot away which was just wide. Dinas kept up the pressure with Swaffield and Donnelly linking well but the ball ran out

for a goal kick.

Mwedzo then made a mazy run down the left wing, leaving several players in his wake before he was chopped down just outside the box but there was no end product from the resulting free kick. As the first half drew to a close it was Dinas in the ascendancy but the Buds defence stood firm and the half ended with just one goal in it.

The second period started well for the visitors, Sam Johnson winning a corner but after a scramble the ball cleared the crossbar and the chance was gone. A deep cross from left to right by the Buds reached Liam Vaughan at the far post but his header was off target.

Dinas' hard working midfielder Keiron James was making several surging runs into the Buds' half but on one occasion he was dispossessed by Jordan McKay who got a shot away but it was off target.

Johnson then found himself one on one with ex-Dinas keeper Dave Burnett who charged out and appeared to handle the ball outside the area, but the referee didn't give it and again the chance was gone.

Curtin had to be alert when McCarthy got a snap-shot on target but he gathered it comfortably enough. Lee Saunders then rang the changes for

Dinas, replacing Charlie Baister and Johnson with James Alloway and Ricky Newman with 25 minutes remaining.

The game was end to end with no real dominance shown by the Buds who were using the long ball tactic most of the time. However, a 22 yard free kick by Gavin Meagham forced Curtin to dive and push the ball out for a corner.

Dinas then went for broke, going three at the back and began to push the Buds back with good link up play involving Ah-Mun, Bruce and Mwedzo finding Donnelly in space. He got into the 18 yard box and appeared to have been tripped but again the referee saw it differently and nothing was given.

In the final minute of the game Buds forced a corner which reached Tyla Preece at the far post to head home powerfully to make it 2-0, which somewhat flattered the home side and they certainly had to work hard for the win.

Dinas: 1 James Curtin, 2 Charlie Baister, 3 Nicky Bruce, 4 James Bloxham (c), 5 Steve Provis, 6 Keiron James, 7 Luke Swaffield, 8 Ben Ah-Mun, 9 Nathan Donnelly, 10 King Junior Mwedzo, 11 Sam Johnson, 12 James Alloway, 14 Ricky Newman. PK

The Millwood bowlers start their season

ON Saturday afternoon, members of Millwood Bowling Club (ladies and gents) gathered for the opening of the green for the coming season.

Members drew their lots for the game of 'spoons' as there was no official game scheduled. Each person drew to see where and who they played with and against.

The format of play worked out to five rinks playing, and one triple rink playing. Each rink were to play a total of 15 ends for this friendly workout.

The first few ends played found the green very heavy but thankfully not too damp, although the green had been watered.

As the afternoon progressed, so the green

began to dry and run and began to take turning bowls. All too soon the 15 ends had been played, and so it was back to the clubhouse to enjoy the barbecue and refreshments.

An enjoyable afternoon's bowling was had by all who attended, although there was no final result after the ends, just the enjoyment of the game!

A very big thank you to all who officiated, and especially Alan Evans for the splendid job doing the barbecue - all the hungry bowlers enjoyed it!

This Saturday the club side are away to Dinas Powys for the usual friendly, while the 'A' side are home to Romilly in the SVL.

Both these games start at 2.30pm, so let's see if the teams can get off to a winning start.

Chess club members in mourning for colleague

THIS week, the mood of the members of the Barry Chess Club can best be described as sombre following the news of the surprise passing away of one of our members, Craig Woolcock.

We have postponed two of our matches at short notice upon receipt of this sad news.

However, before we became aware of this tragedy, there was the matter of round six of the Welsh Premier League, which took place at Briton Ferry.

Local councillor's athletics campaign

A BARRY Councillor is asking the Vale Council to organise a meeting to discuss the future of athletics at Jenner Park.

Cllr Richard Bertin, who represents the town's Court Ward, is requesting the meeting as athletic users are feeling left out in discussions to renew the football pitch at the park.

Discussions are currently being held to replace the pitch with a new 3G artificial all weather football pitch which could mean that athletics would have to move out.

In this round we were drawn to play Nidum from west Wales. We were under pressure due to the late arrival of two of our players. However, in this format of the game, timing should not be an issue as there is an incremental time increase following each move.

David Turner lost on time and Rhys Steele, in his first game since the start of the second semester of the Oxford University, also lost. With Robert Taylor only earning a draw our remaining players, Lee Davis, Nigel Ralphs and Ashley Davis, were all under pressure to win to keep us in with a chance

of our first Premier League title. All three players were successful giving us a narrow win. It could and possibly should have been a bigger victory, so we still have a chance of capturing the title but first we will need to defeat the unbeaten league leaders, Abergavenny, by a margin of at least 4.5 to 1.5. Difficult, but not impossible!

There was also one league match when the Bosons travelled to Whitchurch to play title chasing North Cardiff Woodpushers. We returned home with 3.5 points in the bag, effectively ending the Woodpushers' title hopes.

The high point of this was the victory by Lee Davis over Tim Kett. The Woodpushers top the table on tie break only but have played a match more than the Cardiff Castles. Only the Camelots can prevent another trophy returning to Cardiff.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games. For more details visit our website at <http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com>.

Phil Jones, Club Secretary